



► **BLAKE SHELTON'S "SUPPORTIVE" NEW TV SPOT**

**NASH NEXT**  
**ARTIST SPOTLIGHT**  
**THOMAS RHETT**

# NASH Country Weekly

COUNTRY FOR LIFE | SEPTEMBER 28, 2015

**YES OR NO**  
**WITH**  
**KELSEA**  
**BALLERINI**

## 50 YEARS & GOING STRONG

THE MUSIC KEEPS  
PLAYING WITH **WILLIE,**  
**LORETTA AND MERLE**

**PLUS!**

FALL FASHION  
SPECIAL WITH  
**SCOTTY**  
**McCREERY**  
& **CLARE**  
**DUNN**

THE STORY  
BEHIND  
**KENNY**  
**CHESNEY'S**  
"RAINY DAY"

BACKSTAGE  
AT THE  
RYMAN  
WITH **DOLLY**  
**PARTON**

COUNTRYWEEKLY.COM

\$3.99US \$3.99CAN



0 74820 64724 0



EVERY  
NIGHT



facebook.com/danpostboots  
twitter: @danpostbootco  
pinterest.com/danpostbootco  
instagram: @danpostbootco

[www.danpostboots.com](http://www.danpostboots.com)

'CrossWing'  
Style 52157



**1998** WEDNESDAY,  
SEPT. 23



Garth Brooks by Margaret Norton/Getty Images; Nashville by Mark Levine/ABC

## Hello From Buffalo

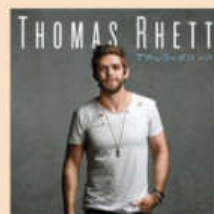
**GARTH BROOKS** carved out a slice of history at the 32nd annual Country Music Association awards show on Sept. 23, 1998, in Nashville. Only he wasn't in Music City to enjoy it. Instead, Garth had to express his thanks via satellite from Buffalo, N.Y., where he was performing in concert with Trisha Yearwood. Garth's only victory that night was the big one—the coveted Entertainer of the Year. That gave him four Entertainer trophies, setting the record for most wins in that category. "I'm proud that the CMA would let me in," Garth said in his long-distance acceptance speech. "And if I say this award means more to me this year, it's because we're one year further along in a career where these things aren't supposed to happen anymore." That same night, George Strait snagged his fifth Male Vocalist of the Year honor, tying him with the show's host, Vince Gill. Garth's four Entertainer of the Year wins have since been tied by Kenny Chesney.

**2015**

**SEPT. 23**  
**NASHVILLE REDUX**



It's a new season of love, music and fooling around as *Nashville* returns to the airwaves on Wednesday, Sept. 23, at 10 p.m. ET on ABC. When the show left off this past summer, Deacon (Charles Esten) and his sister Beverly were both undergoing surgery, while Scarlett (Clare Bowen) and Gunnar appeared to be getting serious. What will Season 4 bring? Tune in.

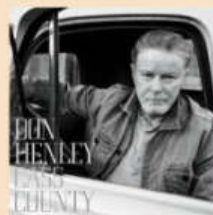


**SEPT. 25**  
**RHETT-TANGLE**  
*Tangled Up*, the sophomore album by **THOMAS**

**RHETT**, hits stores and online retailers on Sept. 25. The album includes the hit single "Crash and Burn."

**SEPT. 25**  
**SOARING**  
**EAGLE**

Eagles vocalist/drummer **DON HENLEY** re-releases his first solo album in 15 years, *Cass County*, on Sept. 25. He gets a little help from friends like **DOLLY PARTON**, who joins Don on "When I Stop Dreaming," **MIRANDA LAMBERT** and **MICK JAGGER** on "Bramble Rose" and other guest stars.



# CONTENTS

**NASH Country Weekly**  
September 28, 2015

## FEATURES

### 32 Fall Fashion

Scotty McCreery and Clare Dunn make their fashion statements for the upcoming season in a variety of cool-looking shirts, boots and accessories. Plus, check out the brands you'll want for yourself.

### 46 Dolly Parton

Everyone's favorite superstar showed every aspect of her performing style in a pair of sold-out benefit shows held at Nashville's storied Ryman Auditorium.

### 50 Jewel

The singer/songwriter redefines herself on her latest album and shares her life experiences in a newly released memoir.

### 52 On the Edge

Soulful Ohio blues-rocker Patrick Sweany serves stripped-down Southern funk and Midwestern grit.

## DEPARTMENTS

### 1 Then & Now

### 4 Letters

### 6 First Take

### 8 The Brew

### 20 Reviews

### 22 Check Yes or No

### 24 Southern Dish

### 26 Studio 615

### 54 Behind the Song

### 56 Charts

### 58 Nash Flash

### 60 Puzzled

### 64 The Leftovers



### 40 On the Cover

Give it up for longevity. In this special section, we profile three legends who are still packing them in and putting out great music after 50 years in the business: **WILLIE NELSON, LORETTA LYNN** and **MERLE HAGGARD**.



## PLUS!



### 27 THOMAS RHETT

gets a chance to dig into his R&B and soul roots with his sophomore album, *Tangled Up*. Plus, find out his secret aspiration, which might come as a surprise.



NASH COUNTRY WEEKLY (ISSN 2379-9137) VOL. 22 NO. 39, IS PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY NASH COUNTRY LLC, 506 2ND AVE. SOUTH, SUITE 200, NASHVILLE, TN 37210. PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID AT NASHVILLE, TN, AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. EDITORIAL OFFICES LOCATED AT NASH COUNTRY WEEKLY, 506 2ND AVE. SOUTH, SUITE 200, NASHVILLE, TN 37210. COPYRIGHT © NASH COUNTRY LLC. 2015. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. SUBSCRIPTION RATE IS \$110.00 A YEAR IN U.S. ONLY. SUBSCRIPTIONS NOT AVAILABLE OUTSIDE THE U.S. U.S. POSTMASTER AND SUBSCRIBERS: SEND ALL UAA TO CFS (SEE DMM 707.4.12.5); NON-POSTAL AND MILITARY FACILITIES: SEND SUBSCRIPTION ADDRESS CHANGES AND ADJUSTMENTS, WRITE TO NASH COUNTRY WEEKLY, P.O. BOX 37463, BOONE, IA 50037-0463 OR CALL 1-877-566-6832. SUBSCRIBERS: IF THE POSTAL SERVICE ALERTS US THAT YOUR MAGAZINE IS UNDELIVERABLE, WE HAVE NO FURTHER OBLIGATION UNLESS WE RECEIVE A CORRECTED ADDRESS WITHIN ONE YEAR. FROM TIME TO TIME WE MAKE OUR SUBSCRIBER LIST AVAILABLE TO COMPANIES WHO SELL GOODS AND SERVICES BY MAIL THAT WE BELIEVE WOULD INTEREST OUR READERS. IF YOU WOULD RATHER NOT RECEIVE SUCH MAILINGS, PLEASE SEND YOUR CURRENT MAILING LABEL TO NASH COUNTRY WEEKLY, P.O. BOX 37463, BOONE, IA 50037-0463 PRINTED IN THE U.S.A.





**ROPER**  
WEAR THE WEST

AND  
**COWBOY TROY**

**WIN A MEET & GREET WITH TROY**

**AT THE 2015 NATIONAL FINALS RODEO!**

**ONE WINNER WILL RECEIVE:**

**AIRFARE FOR TWO**  
WITHIN THE CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES

**2 NIGHTS HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS**  
AT THE MGM GRAND HOTEL

**\$500 ROPER SHOPPING SPREE**  
AT THE ROPER COWBOY MARKETPLACE

**\$100 MGM FOOD/DRINK VOUCHER**

**TWO VIP WRISTBANDS**  
FOR THE GOLD BUCKLE ZONE

**GO TO**  
**WWW.ROPER.COM** AND ENTER TO WIN.

**OR**  
VISIT US AT **ROPERUSA** ON FACEBOOK.



VISIT [EROPER.COM](http://EROPER.COM) FOR COMPLETE DETAILS

## FROM THE EDITOR



### Dear Readers,

Few artists can boast of a career that has been going strong for 50 years. Willie Nelson, Merle Haggard and Loretta Lynn can. The trio began their careers—and released their first albums—in the early '60s and are still touring and releasing new music today. We take a look at these icons in country music and reveal 50 facts that you might not have known. So check out our cover story and celebrate Merle's, Willie's and Loretta's golden anniversaries with us.

In the Nash Next section, we sit down with Thomas Rhett, who at the rate he's going just may be on his way to seeing his own 50-year career. TR, as some call him, has released his latest album, *Tangled Up*. The singer talks about the R&B and blues influence on this album and his partnership with pal Brett Eldredge for a CMT tour and a Zaxby's commercial.

It's that time of year for our Fall Fashion layout. We had the delightful Scotty McCreery and newcomer Clare Dunn join us to show off some hot fashions for fall. After spending many hours with us checking out the duds, the duo got down to business and made all the clothes look really good. So check out the fashions you might like to try this fall.

### SEE YOU NEXT WEEK!

LISA KONICKI, EDITOR IN CHIEF

## FROM THE READER



*Shoot us an email, a comment or a tweet and let us know what you think!*

Letters, Nash Country Weekly, 506 2nd. Ave. South, Suite 200, Nashville, TN 37210

#### EMAIL:

letters@countryweekly.com

#### FACEBOOK:

facebook.com/countryweekly

#### TWITTER:

@countryweekly

Please include your name, address and daytime phone number with all correspondence. Nash Country Weekly assumes no responsibility for returning unsolicited material, including, but not limited to, photographs, artwork, manuscripts and letters. Letters may be edited for clarity and length.

### SWIFT REACTION

I am a longtime Reba fan. I like talking about her, but let's talk about Taylor Swift. About that Swift Exit letter [July 27]. That lady better forget it. We will always want to see Taylor Swift in here and Reba too! Love the new *Nash Country Weekly*.

**DOTTIE FINN** | Winchendon, Mass.

### SENIOR CLASS

I've been enjoying some of the new music from Jim Ed Brown, Ray Price and Gene Watson. I hope when some of the young male singers "mature" they'll realize there's more to country music than just "drinking songs."

**KAREN DAVIES** | Oshkosh, Wis.

### BELATED WISHES

I loved your Alan Jackson story in your June 23 issue and I love your magazine. I would like to send belated birthday wishes to Kris Kristofferson and tell him I think he is the best songwriter ever. He is also my favorite artist of all time. Keep your magazine coming.

**BERYLE RAMSEY**

Gonzales, La.

### FACEBOOK

Kristian [Bush] shows love at every show he does, every time he meets a fan, or a friend, every time he sings . . .

**KATHIE GUNN**

George [Strait] is the king of country music, he deserves it all, love his music, he's the greatest singer ever.

**CACI WALKER**

Getting ready to renew my subscription, so I never miss an issue with George Strait in it. Thank you, *Nash Country Weekly*.

**NANCY EDWARDS**

I bought 4 copies because of Kip [Moore].

**PHYLLIS ANN WINKLE**

### TWITTER

@KipMooreMusic great article in @countryweekly. Keep being true to yourself and your fans. I will always support you.

**KARA BOUNDS**

@woodholmepr0

Way to go @carrieunderwood! I love London and know there is a large #country music following across the pond!

**MOLLY BROOKS**

@mollykb Brooks

I got the new @countryweekly featuring @reba and my favorite candy. It was a good shopping trip!

**CARLA**

@Carla\_Bama

@countryweekly asked men which country artist's style u want 2 emulate. Of course majority said @KipMooreMusic!

**KIPMORREDIEHARDFANS**

@KipDiehardFans

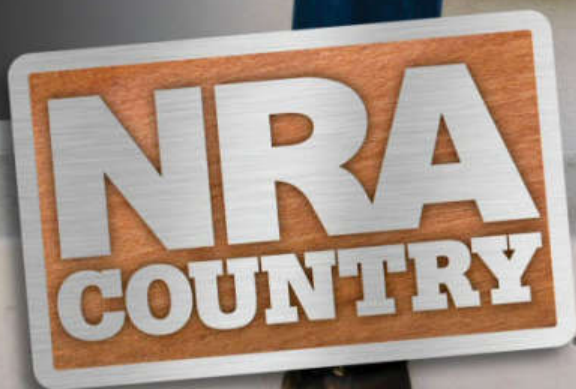


# This is NRA Country

*"The knowledge, patience, and discipline it takes to be a true sportsman has no doubt shaped me into the man I am today. I am Drake White and I am NRA Country."*

**DRAKE WHITE**

**NEW SINGLE**  
**"IT FEELS GOOD"**  
**AVAILABLE NOW**



GET EXCLUSIVE VIDEOS, MUSIC AND MORE! VISIT [NRACOUNTRY.COM](http://NRACOUNTRY.COM) TO GET NRA COUNTRY CONNECTED!



## FIRST TAKE

### CLOSE ENCOUNTER

After a *Tonight Show* crowd member requested a "Close-Up Serenade," Jimmy Fallon and guest Reba McEntire obliged the fan with an up-close-and-personal duet of their impromptu song, "Just Want to Spend This Moment."



photo by Douglas Gorenstein/NBC





# THE COUNTRY BREW

A SWEET TASTE OF ALL THINGS COUNTRY

*Opening Act*



## KEEPIN' IT BRIEF



The Voice. Awards shows. Album covers. Magazine covers. Commercials. It seems like **BLAKE SHELTON**'s face is everywhere these days, and now he's attached his famous mug to the underwear underworld. Since April, Blake has been starring in a series of humorous television ads in support of Gildan underwear. You can check out Blake's brief acting stints at [gildanonline.com](http://gildanonline.com).



**LONG LIVE** six string storytellers.

**LONG LIVE** Georgia to Texas by way of Tennessee.

**LONG LIVE** having a little Hank in ya.

**LONG LIVE** playing true to yourself.

**LONG LIVE COWBOYS.®**

**JASON ALDEAN**

*in Wrangler Retro Relaxed Boot Cut Jeans*



**LONG LIVE COWBOYS.®**



**RIGHT STUFF. LOW PRICE. EVERYDAY!**







(Above) **WEST'S COAST** Emily West returned to *America's Got Talent* to perform with finalist William Close (right); (below) **NOT JOHN DEERE GREEN** If Chase Rice isn't driving a truck, he's driving a tractor instead; (below right) **SHREDFEST** Lindsay Ell (left) and Natalie Stovall take a break from a studio collaboration.



(Above) **THAT GIRL** Jennifer Nettles (right) chats up *Orange Is the New Black*'s Laverne Cox; (below) **ELBOW ROOM** Jamey Johnson ponders the benefits of an Ashley Monroe armrest.



AGT by Virginia Sherwood/ABC; Jennifer & Laverne courtesy Jennifer Nettles Facebook; Lindsay & Natalie courtesy Lindsay Ell Facebook; Chase courtesy Chase Rice Facebook; Jamey & Ashley courtesy Ashley Monroe Facebook



Always Original

# the voice

SEASON  
PREMIERE

MONDAY SEPT 21 • 8/7c



NBC

mat





(Above) **A BIGGER BOAT** Canaan Smith tries not to get freaked out by those fish that like to eat dead skin off the feet; (below) **SOME BEACH** A few lucky fans get to hang out with the wacky circus that is Big & Rich against the sunny backdrop of Florida's Redneck Riviera.



**GUN SHOW** Trace Adkins is a large dude, but he's clearly no match for this pint-sized cowboy at the Du Quoin State Fair.





# DURANGO®

It's not just a boot,  
It's an attitude



**[durangoboots.com](http://durangoboots.com)**  
**[durangoleatherco.com](http://durangoleatherco.com)**

On Him: Boots: DB510 Jacket: DLC0007 On Her: Boots: DCRD145 Jacket: DLC0002



**Customer Service: 866.442.4908**

# STARTER KIT

## MADDIE & TAE ALBUM RELEASE PARTY THE CORDELLE NASHVILLE

Bright new duo **MADDIE & TAE** threw a big Nashville bash to celebrate the launch of their long-awaited debut album, *Start Here*. And it seemed like the party planners thought of everything. Guests arriving at the Cordelle event space were greeted by the often-seen male lead character from the duo's breakthrough music video, "Girl in a Country Song," which has amassed more

than 28 million views to date. Plus, a variety of Southern-style food was available for all to enjoy. Maddie & Tae also performed "Girl in a Country Song" along with current single "Fly" for the assembled guests.

And what's a party without a couple of impromptu moments? During the course of the party, the duo introduced surprise guest **LEE ANN WOMACK**, an artist the ladies have long



admired. Lee Ann sang her hit "A Little Past Little Rock" for the attendees. **DIERKS BENTLEY**, with whom Maddie & Tae have been touring, also sent the duo a video mes-

sage, raving that, "They are light-years ahead of where I was at that age."

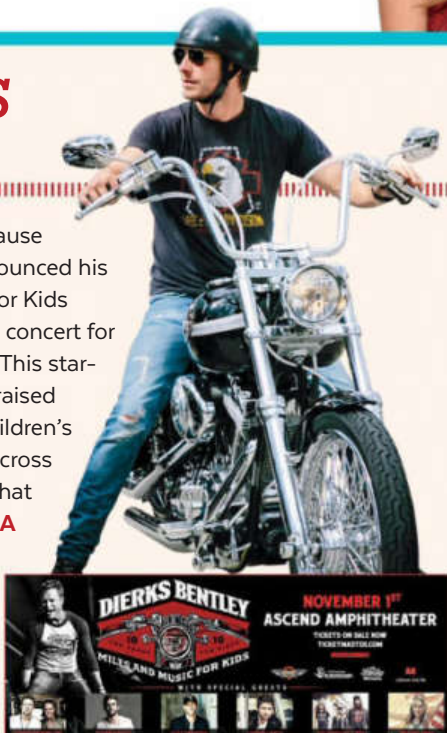
*Start Here* was released Aug. 28 to stores and online retailers.



## MUSICIANS FOR MILES

Get your motor runnin' because **DIERKS BENTLEY** has announced his 10th annual Miles & Music for Kids motorcycle ride and benefit concert for Sunday, Nov. 1 in Nashville. This star-studded event has already raised more than \$3 million for Children's Miracle Network hospitals across the U.S., and with a lineup that includes **FLORIDA GEORGIA LINE**, **THOMAS RHETT**, **COLE SWINDELL**, **THE CADILLAC THREE**, **CANAAN SMITH** and **BROOKE EDEN**, this year's concert is bound to set a new record.

Hosted by Storme Warren, the ride kicks off at the Harley-Davidson in Columbia, Tenn., and winds through the beautiful Tennessee countryside before ending at Nashville's Ascend Amphitheater.



## BRICK BY BRICK

**ANDREA RICHESON**, a diehard fan of ABC's *Nashville*, built replicas of the TV show's cast out of LEGO bricks. Her project, titled Nashville Rebricked, features the LEGO figures at the Bluebird Cafe and will be auctioned off in October to raise money for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.







*Never Give Up*



2015  
**TUFF  
FEST**

SHOP | LEARN | WATCH  
*All in One Stop!*

**Hard Rock**  
HOTEL & CASINO  
LAS VEGAS

During NFR  
**December 3-12**

\*AS LOW AS \$45/NIGHT!





## KACEY FOR LUCCHESI

**KACEY MUSGRAVES** has a distinct look to accompany her sharp songwriting, as evidenced by the glam and campy photos from her new album, *Pageant Material*, or the neon-light-studded boots she wore at the Grammys in 2014. Accordingly, Kacey has partnered with revered Texas-based bootmaker Lucchese to introduce Kacey for Lucchese, a new collection that will draw on Kacey's life in the spotlight. Kacey oversaw the four different western designs that will make up the collection. "It's allowed my brain to be creative with things other than music," Kacey told *Nash Country Weekly* prior to the launch, "and they're gonna be really cute!" The Kacey for Lucchese collection will be in all Lucchese stores before the 2015 holidays and is expected to retail between \$300 and \$450 per pair. Additional retail partners will also carry the boots.

**LUCCHESI**  
BOOTMAKER

### BIRTHDAYS

**SEPT. 21, 1966**  
**RONNA REEVES**

**SEPT. 21, 1967**  
**FAITH HILL**

**SEPT. 22, 1956**  
**DEBBY BOONE**

**SEPT. 22, 1956**  
**JUNE FORESTER**  
of The Forester Sisters

**SEPT. 25, 1987**  
**GREG BATES**

**SEPT. 26, 1941**  
**DAVID FRIZZELL**

**SEPT. 26, 1948**  
**OLIVIA NEWTON-JOHN**

**SEPT. 26, 1955**  
**CARLENE CARTER**

**SEPT. 26, 1960**  
**DOUG SUPERNOW**

## TIPPIN IT BACK

Deana Carter may have thought "Strawberry Wine" was where it's at, but **AARON TIPPIN** proved that blackberry wine has its virtues when he hosted a luncheon and wine



tasting for members of the media last month at the CMA offices. Featured on the menu was Aaron's own Country Jam blackberry wine, produced and bottled by Middle Tennessee's Stonehaus Winery. The vino was created to celebrate Aaron's 25 years of making country music.

In addition to sampling Aaron's namesake wine and other selections offered by Stonehaus, and nibbling on a barbecue spread from Nashville's Peg Leg Porker, guests were treated to a short acoustic set of hits from Aaron, including classics like "You've Got to Stand for Something" and "There Ain't Nothin' Wrong With the Radio."



## RICHES OF THE WORLD

Good times will be rolling on the river on Oct. 17 as the Memphis Music Hall of Fame inducts seven

new members who have influenced Memphis' rich musical legacy. This year's honorees include country legend **CHARLIE RICH**, who won the 1974 CMA Entertainer of the Year as well as a Grammy for his single "Behind Closed Doors." Other inductees include pop sensation Justin Timberlake, blues songstress Alberta Hunter, Booker T. & the MGs' drummer Al Jackson Jr., piano virtuoso Memphis Slim, guitarist Scotty Moore and soul legends Sam & Dave.





# NEWS — of — NOTE

## IN MEMORY

**JEFF WALKER**, music industry business leader and CEO/President of Aristo Media Group publicity firm, died in Nashville on Aug. 24 at age 65. Jeff served on the board of Country Radio Broadcasters and was a longtime member of the Country Music Association Board of Directors.



## CONCERTS

Americana favorite **STURGILL SIMPSON** has sold out three consecutive shows at the Ryman Auditorium in Nashville, Oct. 30–Nov. 1. Sturgill's *Metamodern Sounds in Country Music* album was one of the most acclaimed releases of 2014.



## LABEL NEWS

**JENNIFER NETTLES** recently signed a recording deal with Big Machine Records after leaving the Mercury Nashville label over the summer. Jennifer's first single for Big Machine is slated for an October release with an album planned for early 2016.



## TV TALK

The made-for-NBC movie **DOLLY PARTON'S COAT OF MANY COLORS** is set to premiere on the network on Dec. 10. The film is based on Dolly's childhood in East Tennessee and stars **ALYVIA LIND** as young Dolly and **JENNIFER NETTLES** and **RICKY SCHRODER** as Dolly's parents.



(From left) Ricky Schroder, Dolly Parton, Alyvia Lind and Jennifer Nettles

# ON TOUR GRANGER SMITH TOUR

**SEPT. 24**

**Springfield, Mo.\***  
The Shrine Mosque

**SEPT. 25**

**Enid, Okla.\***  
Enid Event Center

**SEPT. 26**

**Muskogee, Okla.\***  
Muskogee Event Center

**OCT. 1**

**Uncasville, Conn.**  
Mohegan Sun

**OCT. 2**

**Cambridge, Mass.**  
The Sinclair

**OCT. 3**

**Stroudsburg, Pa.**  
Sherman Theater

**OCT. 4**

**Lancaster, Pa.**  
The Chameleon Club

**OCT. 6**

**New York**  
Highline Ballroom

**OCT. 7**

**South Burlington, Vt.**  
Higher Ballroom

**OCT. 8**

**Portland, Maine**  
Asylum

**OCT. 9**

**Clifton Park, N.Y.**  
Upstate Concert Hall

**OCT. 10**

**Jordan, N.Y.**  
Kegs Canal Side  
Event Center

**OCT. 11**

**Buffalo, N.Y.**  
Town Ballroom

\*Shows with  
Lee Brice







## NO. 1 PARTY FOR "SMOKE" SOUTH RESTAURANT AND BAR

**MICHAEL HOBBY, BILL SATCHER, ZACH BROWN and GRAHAM DELOACH** of **A THOUSAND HORSES** celebrated the No. 1 success of their debut single, "Smoke," at South Restaurant and Bar in Nashville one year to the day after Michael co-wrote

the tune with hit songwriters Ross Copperman and Jon Nite.

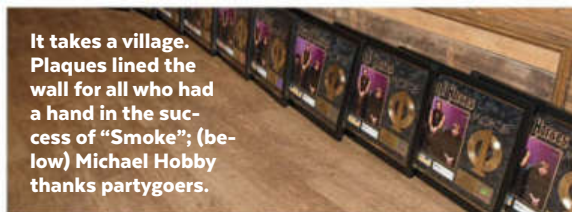
"It was the last song we wrote for the album and the first song we recorded," said Michael. "So today is an awesome day. To be able to celebrate 'Smoke' going No. 1 and all

the hard work that went into it is pretty incredible."

With a hit song and a spot supporting Darius Rucker on the Southern Style Tour, A Thousand Horses is off and running in 2015. But it was the journey of five years of playing in small clubs together throughout the country that helped the band hone its sound be-

fore signing a record deal with Republic Nashville of Big Machine Label Group in 2014. It is that same journey that made celebrating this day surrounded by family and friends extra special.

"It means everything to us," said Michael. "It's something we've dreamed of since we started playing music."



No. 1 party photos by Steve Lowry/BMI




# WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

## ***Nash Country Weekly's*** **2015 Reader Survey!**

Everyone who completes the survey will be automatically entered in a drawing to win a trip for two to Nashville to attend the CMA Awards on Nov. 4, 2015.



WEDNESDAY NOV 4 8|7c 

To get started, visit [countryweekly.com/readersurvey](http://countryweekly.com/readersurvey)







## Singles

### Carrie Underwood “Smoke Break”

19 RECORDINGS/ARISTA NASHVILLE

**A**

Despite its title, Carrie’s latest single—the first from her new studio album—has very little to do with smoking or any other vice. Instead, it has everything to do with the masses of overworked people doing everything in their power to provide for themselves and their dependents with little or no relief in sight.

Carrie and her co-writers Chris DeStefano and Hillary Lindsey smartly depict the struggle to uphold values in the face of such overwhelming stress and avoid coming off as moralizing or cloying. She describes the characters’ internal struggles by having them speak through her: *He said, I don’t*

*smoke / But sometimes I wanna light it up / Yeah, when things get tough,* goes one bit of dialog in the second chorus. Pretty much everyone’s been there—when things get tough, temptation is always lurking somewhere in the shadows. Rather than saying “Don’t do it,” Carrie acknowledges the fight and sympathizes: *here’s to you and here’s to when the day gets long / Go ahead, I understand if you wanna take a load off,* she offers.

Surprisingly, Carrie pairs this tricky concept with possibly the most straightforward, country-rock arrangement we’ve ever heard from her—a distinct zag while many of her contemporaries are zigging toward pop and R&B. Placid mandolin and acoustic guitar flourishes underpin the verses, with bursts of bright electric guitar and tight-fisted drums elevating the intensity

of the chorus. She wails the louder moments at full power, but bends the notes with finesse that recalls her “Somethin’ Bad” duet partner Miranda Lambert’s singles like “Automatic” and “Heart Like Mine.” It’s seemingly a new (or previously hidden) side of Carrie’s artistry and it suits her remarkably well.

“Smoke Break” seems tailor-made for country radio listeners, many of whom will see themselves reflected in the stretched-to-the-limit characters it portrays. Getting something that substantial on country radio at this cultural moment of the never-ending summer—that feels like a huge victory.

**JON FREEMAN**

#### LONG STORY SHORT:

Need a break? You’re not alone. Listen to Carrie’s latest and unwind for a spell.



## THE NCW JUKEBOX

Essential songs from the artists featured in this issue.

**WILLIE NELSON**  
"Always on My Mind"

**LORETTA LYNN**  
"Coal Miner's Daughter"

**MERLE HAGGARD**  
"Mama Tried"

**THOMAS RHETT**  
"Crash and Burn"

**DOLLY PARTON**  
"Jolene"

**SCOTTY McCREERY**  
"Southern Belle"

**KELSEA BALLERINI**  
"Dibs"

**JEWEL**  
"Foolish Games"

**KENNY CHESNEY**  
"Save It for a Rainy Day"

**DIERKS BENTLEY**  
"I Hold On"

**MADDIE & TAE**  
"Fly"

**A THOUSAND HORSES**  
"Smoke"

**KACEY MUSGRAVES**  
"Biscuits"

**PATRICK SWEANY**  
"Long Way Down"

LOOK  
FOR THIS  
NASH COUNTRY WEEKLY  
PLAYLIST ON  
**rdio**

## Waterloo Revival "Bad for You"

BIG MACHINE RECORDS

**D**



Without getting into the "what's country, what's not" argument, the only verdict one can render with any accuracy

is that this fails on every level, regardless of genre. "Bad for You" is certainly not a decent country record, regardless of the token additions of tinkling banjo and mandolin. In fact, there is nothing remotely country about it. But "Bad for You" isn't even a good pop record, or even R&B (which this desperately attempts to be) for that matter. The lyrics are much too bland, save for the bit of cleverness of *I'm like a bee on honey / I'm like a cloud on blue*. The production exudes the familiar kick drum, electronic touches so commonplace in all of music. And what's the storyline? Why, it's about hanging at a bar and picking up a hot chick. Seems like we've heard that one before. This signifies nothing more than postmodern bubblegum delivered by a made-for-Disney Channel act.

**BOB PAXMAN**

## William Michael Morgan "I Met a Girl"

WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE

**A**



Country music is taking a great deal of pride in calling itself more diverse as pop- and urban-influenced tunes

are taking up the majority of the space on radio play-lists these days. But it would serve us all to remember that in being diverse we should also be embracing those familiar sounds and sensibilities that are traditional country. Newcomer William Michael Morgan serves up a great reminder of that with a splash of pedal steel on his new single, "I Met a Girl." With a voice that is a heavenly blend of George Strait, Keith Whitley and Joe Nichols, William Michael delivers the Sam Hunt, Trevor Rosen and Shane McAnally-penned tune with a healthy dollop of a country boy's modest swagger that has us anxious to hear more. "I Met a Girl" is the perfect combo of a well-written song and the smooth voice meant to sing it.

**TAMMY RAGUSA**

## Video

### Little Big Town "Pain Killer"

CAPITOL NASHVILLE

**B**

Little Big Town is hanging on to the summer season with the new video for their reggae-flavored single, "Pain Killer." The quartet headed down to the British Virgin Islands to shoot the tongue-in-cheek tune about the



numbing effects of the one you love. And it's just what you would expect from the foursome—light and happy shots of the group dancing on the beach, drinking a few rum-flavored drinks and

even singing underwater with their guitars. The don't-worry-be-happy Caribbean vibe is just the diversion we needed to take our minds off the upcoming colder weather.

**JIM CASEY**



## CHECK YES OR NO

# Kelsea Ballerini

Fresh off of her debut No. 1 single, "Love Me Like You Mean It," Kelsea Ballerini stopped by the *Nash Country Weekly* office with her new puppy, Dibs—which also happens to be the name of her second single—to play a little game we like to call Check Yes or No.

### HAVE YOU EVER RUN A RED LIGHT?

YES ☒ NO ☐

### DO YOU BELIEVE IN LOVE?

YES ☒ NO ☐

### HAVE YOU EVER GIVEN BLOOD?

YES ☒ NO ☐

### DO YOU SLEEP ON A CERTAIN SIDE OF THE BED?

YES ☒ NO ☐

### HAVE YOU EATEN SOMETHING THAT YOU DIDN'T KNOW WHAT IT WAS?

YES ☒ NO ☐

### ARE YOU FUNNY?

YES ☐ NO ☒

### HAVE YOU BROKEN A BONE?

YES ☐ NO ☒

### DO YOU HAVE A DOG?

YES ☒ NO ☐

### DO YOU SOMETIMES IGNORE YOUR CELLPHONE?

YES ☒ NO ☐

### DO YOU CHEW GUM?

YES ☐ NO ☒

### DO YOU LIVE IN THE SAME STATE YOU WERE BORN?

YES ☒ NO ☐

### DO YOU WISH THIS WAS OVER?

YES ☐ NO ☒



photo by Jeremy Ryan/Black River Ent.



# **“HOME OF THE BRAVE”**

## **MEN'S HOODIE**

Hand-crafted quality in a custom design that you won't find anywhere else!



***Boldly emblazoned on the back is a patch of a soaring eagle, its wings bearing our flag's stars and stripes, surrounded by the words for which we stand LAND OF THE FREE and HOME OF THE BRAVE***



### **An All-American Salute with Star Spangled Style**

It's time to stand up and stand out as proud Americans. And now you can in dramatic fashion, with our custom-crafted “Home of the Brave” Men's Hoodie, exclusively available from The Bradford Exchange. Crafted in easy-care black cotton blend knit, with brushed fleece on the inside, it showcases a stirring eagle patch accented with our flag's stars and stripes on the back along with the boldly printed motto: LAND OF THE FREE and HOME OF THE BRAVE. An American flag is embroidered on the front chest.

You'll notice plenty of design detail throughout this apparel exclusive, like contrasting gray lining in the hood, front pockets, knit cuffs and hem, a full front zipper, and even chrome-look metal tippets on the hood drawstrings. Imported.

### **An Outstanding Value... And Your Satisfaction Guaranteed**

This custom hoodie is available, in sizes Medium to XXL, only from The Bradford Exchange, and only for a limited time. So don't miss out—order yours as soon as possible! A remarkable value at \$89.95\*, you can pay for it in four convenient monthly installments of \$22.49 each. To order yours, backed by our 30-day guarantee, send no money now; just fill out and send in your Reservation Application today!

[www.bradfordexchange.com/patriotichoodie](http://www.bradfordexchange.com/patriotichoodie)

©2015 BGE 01-16577-001-BIR

#### **RESERVATION APPLICATION**

**SEND NO MONEY NOW**

**THE  
BRADFORD EXCHANGE**  
—APPAREL & ACCESSORIES—

9345 Milwaukee Avenue · Niles, IL 60714-1393

**YES.** Please reserve the “Home of the Brave” Men's Hoodie for me as described in this announcement. I've indicated my size preference below.

*Please Respond Promptly*

- ☐ M(38-40) 01-16577-011   ☐ XL(46-48) 01-16577-013  
☐ L(42-44) 01-16577-012   ☐ XXL(50-52) 01-16577-014

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Mrs. Mr. Ms. \_\_\_\_\_

Name (Please Print Clearly)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**E08102**

\*Plus \$11.99 shipping and service. Please allow 2-4 weeks after initial payment for shipment. Sales subject to product availability and order acceptance.



# MEAT OF THE MATTER

SINK YOUR KNIFE AND FORK INTO THIS SIRLOIN RECIPE, FEATURED ON THE COOKING CHANNEL'S STEAK OUT WITH KIX BROOKS.



**KIX BROOKS** recently wrapped the first season of his Cooking Channel series, *Steak Out With Kix Brooks*, where he visited famous steakhouses in gourmet capitals like New Orleans and Dallas. A second season is due to arrive soon. In the meantime, the Cooking Channel is airing the pilot episode that launched the series and

made it a tasty favorite with fans. You can catch it on Sept. 22 at 9 p.m. ET.

Kix sampled some great food in Chicago, Louisville and Nashville for the episode. And here's a recipe from Zed451, a sleek and chic steakhouse in Chicago, for Bottom Sirloin that should satisfy any beef lover.

**BOB PAXMAN**

## BOTTOM SIRLOIN

Makes 6-8 servings

2 cups sour cream  
1 cup mayonnaise  
½ cup buttermilk  
½ cup finely chopped onions  
1 tbsp. minced chives  
1 tbsp. minced garlic  
1 tbsp. finely chopped parsley  
1 tsp. kosher salt  
One 2- to 3-pound piece bottom sirloin  
Kosher salt and freshly ground pepper

**MIX** the sour cream, mayonnaise, buttermilk, onions, chives, garlic and parsley together in a large bowl. **PLACE** the sirloin in the bowl and make sure it is completely covered with the marinade. **COVER** with plastic wrap and refrigerate for two days.

Preheat a grill to high heat. **REMOVE** the sirloin from the bowl, wipe off any excess marinade and season with salt and pepper. **GRILL** over high heat, turning once, until the internal temperature on an instant-read thermometer reads 110°, 10 to 15 minutes.



Kix by David Lang/Cooking Channel; steak by Marquand Michael/Corbis



# Thomas Kinkade's Mountain Retreat Stained Glass Lamp

Not Available  
in Stores



Thomas Kinkade's tranquil artwork is illuminated from within on a hand-crafted stained glass shade

More than 80 pieces of stained glass comprise the hand-assembled lampshade

Pedestal lamp base, fluted column, finial and elegant pull chains (which control each side separately) feature an antiqued bronze finish



Nearly  
2 Feet  
High

Thomas Kinkade's vision of a perfect mountain getaway is the centerpiece of this handsome design. The artwork panels are set off and high-lighted by over 80 intricately hand-set pieces of translucent glass in the vivid hues of nature. The classically styled glass shade is hand-fired, fusing the imagery and the glass into one, creating permanent colors for lifetime beauty.

Exceptional value!  
Order now.

Order now at five easy installments of \$39.99, for a total of \$199.95\*. Your purchase is backed by our 365-day guarantee. Send no money now. Just mail the Reservation Application today.

Shown much smaller than actual size of about 21 in. high, including finial; 14½ in. diameter shade.

UL-approved; includes two FREE CFL bulbs for soft illumination.

[www.bradfordexchange.com/mountain](http://www.bradfordexchange.com/mountain)

Mountain Retreat©2005 Thomas Kinkade ©2014 The Bradford Exchange 01-20152-001-BI

RESERVATION APPLICATION

SEND NO MONEY NOW

THE  
BRADFORD EXCHANGE  
—HOME DECOR—

9345 Milwaukee Avenue · Niles, IL 60714-1393

**YES.** Please reserve the *Thomas Kinkade's Mountain Retreat Stained Glass Lamp* for me as described in this announcement.  
Limit: one per order. **Please Respond Promptly**

Mrs. Mr. Ms.

Name (Please Print Clearly)

Address

City

State

Zip

Email (optional)

01-20152-001-E08191

\*Plus \$23.99 shipping and service. Limited-edition presentation restricted to 95 firing days. Please allow 4-8 weeks after initial payment for shipment. Sales subject to product availability and order acceptance.





# Sarah Ross

## WHEN

April 23

## SET LIST

"Calm Before the Storm"  
"You're No Good"  
"Lovin' This Beat"

## STAFF PICK

"Calm Before the Storm"

## WHAT'S NEW

This New Jersey native admits to enjoying mainstream rap artists like Eminem and Nicki Minaj, but since she got her musical start as a country singer, the artists who influenced her early in her career were genre-straddling acts like Colt Ford and The Lacs.

## JERSEY GIRL

"Jersey is the Garden State and a lot of people don't realize that. Yes, you drive a couple of miles away and you're in the city, but I grew up in the woods and I grew up listening to all of the older country music with my dad and my grandparents."

## LET IT GROW

"I think country music will always have its roots, no matter what, but it's constantly evolving and constantly changing. Years ago, no one ever said that bro-country would be all over the radio and now that's all that's on the radio. You never know what's going to happen in a few years, and I think the genre itself is definitely growing and getting bigger each year. I'm excited for it."

## MIX MASTER

"For me, it's just because I love so many different varieties of music so much. On the radio in my car I have a rap station and a rock station and a country station. So instead of having to switch back and forth, I blend them together."

## THE NOTEBOOK

"I think every song means something to somebody in a different way. A lot of my inspiration is by observation. I'll be riding around and I'll see something and I'll write it down. I keep a list in my notebook in my phone."



photos by Carissa Riccardi

# NASH **NEXT**

**ARTIST SPOTLIGHT**



**THOMAS RHETT** DIGGS  
INTO HIS R&B AND '90s  
ROCK ROOTS FOR HIS  
LATEST ALBUM.

## TANGLED UP IN **BLUES**

• BY BOB PAXMAN



**T**o Thomas Rhett, the only “label” that really matters is his record company. After that, you can fairly well toss aside any attempts to pigeonhole the 25-year-old phenom’s sound and style. He likes to mix it up musically, tossing in a dash of R&B, hip-hop, EDM (Electronic Dance Music for those of a certain age) or a hint of 1990s radio rock into the country fray, which more than a few of his contemporaries are pulling off with equal ease. But these are favorable times for singers who wish to acknowledge their roots, Thomas Rhett (occasionally referred to as “TR” by friends) maintains.

“The audiences now are a lot more open-minded,” he says. “They are not into labeling music so much. I think 20 or 30 years ago, country singers wanted to show their rock and blues influences, but it was considered unacceptable. It takes people a long time to accept certain things. So, today’s time is perfect.”

And it’s evidently perfect timing for Thomas Rhett’s sophomore album, *Tangled Up*, which hits stores and online retailers Sept. 25. Astute listeners will detect the influences of Stevie Wonder, classic rock band War (on the cut “Vacation”), James Brown and others who exist on the outer fringes of country on several tracks. The album’s lead single, “Crash and Burn,” served early notice as to what Thomas Rhett was up to, as it easily reminded R&B fans

of the great Sam Cooke’s “Chain Gang.” Thomas Rhett points to the song “Tangled,” which basically serves as the title cut, as a further example of his eclectic approach.

“That is very Michael Jackson—James Brown influenced,” Thomas Rhett explains. “I describe it as [his 2015 No. 1] ‘Make Me Wanna’ on steroids. You can’t help but dance to it and smile through it.” But as wide-open and flexible as record companies tend to be in this era, it still seems a roll of the dice to allow an artist this much flexibility. But allow it they certainly did, to Thomas Rhett’s mix of surprise and gratitude.

“I never fully thought that anybody was going to let me cut it,” he concedes with a mild laugh. “Usually, you have to establish yourself with a few albums in your career before they’ll let you stretch a little. But the label gave me that freedom, and it’s great.”

*Tangled Up* kicks off with a blowout track, appropriately titled “Anthem,” that jumpstarts the record like a rocking whirlwind. “We cut that basically for our live show,” Thomas Rhett reveals. “The first time I heard it, I was like, ‘Oh, my gosh, that’s a show opener.’ I was looking for something like that. So, it’s going to be the first thing fans will hear on the album and the first thing they’ll hear in concerts.”

Thomas Rhett also takes things down a notch with such romantic fare as “Die a Happy Man,” destined to be

In addition to Thomas Rhett’s new album featuring a guest appearance by Jordin Sparks (center) on “Playing With Fire,” listeners may also detect the influences of Stevie Wonder (top right) and James Brown (bottom right).



studio photo courtesy Thomas Rhett/facbook; Stevie by Fred Prouser/Corbis; James by Lynn Goldsmith/Corbis; perf by Suzi Pratt/Getty Images







# ZALAD DAYS

**THOMAS RHETT HAD A “BLAST” FILMING HIS ZAXBY’S COMMERCIALS WITH TOUR MATE BRETT ELDRIDGE—AND MORE ACTING MIGHT BE IN STORE.**

If you spend any time in front of the television, you’ve likely come across the spot for the Zaxby’s restaurant chain featuring Thomas Rhett and Brett Eldredge. The two fight over the famed Zaxby’s house “zalad” as they prepare to go onstage for a show. Both project an air of comfort in front of the camera, making the spot appear more of a good-natured conversation than contrived hucksterism. “It was fun to get to improvise with each other,” Thomas Rhett raves. “We had a blast doing it.”

And as Thomas Rhett reveals, he’s somewhat of a closet actor. “This might be kind of a little known thing,” he begins with a laugh. “But when I was a kid, I used to dress up like James Bond (one imagines a miniature tuxedo) or some kind of detective hero and make little home videos. I’ve always loved being behind the camera and acting a little bit. I think anybody that sings is an actor of some sort, anyway. When you go onstage, you’re being a different person, and you turn on a different part of yourself.”

Insightful stuff from such a young performer. And apparently, he’d welcome the opportunity for more in the thespian arena. “It would be fun to take that on as another



part of your career,” he muses. “Not that it would ever overtake singing, which is what I love most. But who knows—maybe Brett and I can have our own TV show one day. That would be pretty cool.”



(Clockwise from left) Thomas Rhett celebrating his “Make Me Wanna” No. 1; Thomas Rhett and good friend Brett Eldredge will be sharing the stage on a fall tour; with wife Lauren at the 2015 ACM Awards; flanked by “Make Me Wanna” writers Larry McCoy (left) and Bart Butler.



the next single, and “Like It’s the Last Time.” He penned “Die a Happy Man” for his wife, Lauren, whom he married in 2012, with a couple of pop-oriented writers from Los Angeles, Sean Douglas and Joe Spargur, further expanding the breadth of his musical experience. The three barely knew one another when they traveled together for a couple of Thomas Rhett’s concert dates.

“They came out on the road with me for a weekend,” he recalls. “The first day, we wrote ‘Die a Happy Man,’ so that was a great beginning. I knew I wanted to write a really amazing love song and I felt that if I was going to try that, why not do it with a couple of fresh minds. We didn’t know very much about each other but I think that was the beauty of getting to work with those guys. They didn’t have any preconceived notions about me. Their approach was, ‘Let’s just write songs,’ and that one literally flowed out.”

The bubbling excitement in his voice is immediately detectable. As he recalls in rapid-fire fashion, the rush of finishing a loving ode to his wife provided an adrenalin shot that could barely be contained. “I was so pumped about it,” Thomas Rhett says, “that I went out that night and played it for the crowd at my concert. I let them know that I was more than likely going to mess up the lyrics,” he adds with a self-effacing laugh, “which I did.”

He’ll have some time to get it memorized before he starts a new phase of his touring life, his co-headlining road shows for CMT with Brett Eldredge. Officially billed

Thomas Rhett speaking at No. 1 party by Carissa Riccardi; Larry, Thomas & Bart courtesy The Greenroom PR; Thomas & Brett at CMT Awards courtesy Brett Eldredge Instagram; Lauren & Thomas by Jason Merritt/Getty Images; Thoams by Joseph Llanes/The Valley Music Co.



## “[BLUES AND COUNTRY] HAVE ONE THING IN COMMON, AND THAT IS THE WORD ‘SOUL.’”

as CMT on Tour: Brett Eldredge & Thomas Rhett—Suits & Boots, the tour represents a golden opportunity of which he’s fully aware. The CMT on Tour package has served as a major launching pad for artists like Jake Owen, Florida Georgia Line and Kip Moore, who capitalized on the exposure to enter the next level of their careers.

“Look at all the people who have gotten to headline,” Thomas Rhett says. “It was huge for them, and for Brett and I to do this is a big feather in our caps.” He adds that he and buddy Brett are still working on the show format, but have already decided how they’ll end each stop. “We’re actually both going to close the shows,” TR

explains. “We’ll do that together. We’ll flip-flop who’s going to open. It’s going to be a lot of fun and it’s just a nice time to spread our wings.” Their co-headlining CMT on Tour, which also features opening act Danielle Bradbery, gets underway Oct. 29 in New York.

Naturally, he’ll have new music to showcase with *Tangled Up*, his first album since 2013’s *It Goes Like This*. With *Tangled Up*, he feels that he’s evolved both as a writer and a performer.

“I think I have a lot of songs that are truly me and what I’m all about,” Thomas Rhett says. “The song ‘I Feel Good’ takes me back to riding in the car to go to football practice in the sixth grade and listening to all those hip-hop tracks that everyone loved. And ‘Heard It on the Radio’ is a song that is going to mean something to people. That one took me back in time as well,” he adds. “We all listened to whatever was being played on the radio, and those songs reflected our lives. But then, I think I wrote some things that stretched me a little as an artist. ‘Vacation’ sounds a little bit like ‘Low Rider’ by War and ‘Playing With Fire’ is a little different for me.”

Mainly, *Tangled Up* allows him to revisit his roots, with music that spreads all across the stylistic map. “I’ve always been a lover of blues,” says Thomas Rhett, “and I think blues and country have always been connected. They have one thing in common, and that is the word ‘soul.’ If you put soul into your music,” he says, after a brief pause, “you’re gonna be all right.” ■



A man with short brown hair and a light beard is standing on a wooden floor. He is wearing a black leather jacket over a green and brown patterned shirt, and dark jeans. He is holding a vintage-style silver microphone on a stand. The background is a solid teal color. Red maple leaves are scattered around the top and right sides of the image.

NCW FALL FASHION SPECIAL

# The Fall Guy & Gal

**SCOTTY McCREERY**  
and **CLARE DUNN** talk  
new music while getting  
duded up in our Fall  
Fashion photo shoot.

BY TAMMY RAGUSA

PHOTOS BY JEREMY RYAN





It was hard not to be distracted by all of the great props and backdrops at Jeremy Ryan Creatives Studio, our location for the *Nash Country Weekly* Fall Fashion photo shoot, but then again, we also had a great collection of boots and clothing, plus two of the hottest stars in country music to work with in Clare Dunn and Scotty McCreery. So, not only was there a lot to look at, there was also a lot of fun about to go down.

Both Clare and Scotty were excited to dig into the great fashions sent to us by Stetson, Roper, Tin Haul, Wrangler, B. Tuff Jeans, Dingo Boots, Durango Boots, Dan Post Boots, Durango Leather Co. and Shyanne from Boot Barn, but they were equally excited to talk about their new music. Clare's self-titled debut EP had just been released, and not only did she co-write all of the songs, she also co-produced all of the tracks and played lead guitar. "It's truly an authentic picture of who I am as an artist," she told us. "I've been so lucky to have the best record label in the world behind me in allowing me to paint a true picture for people out there that this is me, this is who I am as an artist and this isn't some other producer or some other songwriter or somebody's vision of me. This is my own vision of who I am."

Scotty, too, is more involved with his upcoming project, saying, "I've written a lot more than I have in the past. I've cut five songs and four of the five are co-writes of mine, so I'm excited to share that part of me as an artist and share the craft I've been working on." He smiles and adds, "I'm growing up on [the upcoming record] from that 16-year-old kid they knew on *Idol*."

Roper gives **SCOTTY** a dash of flash in this masculine paisley print shirt that he tops off with a Durango Leather Co. jacket. His great-fitting jeans are 7 For All Mankind and those classic engineer boots are also Durango.

Sparkle is in abundance in **CLARE**'s BB Dakota top, finished off with a buttery leather jacket from Durango Leather Company. Her super distressed denim is by Frame and booties are Summit by White Mountain. Clare's earrings and bracelet are by Shelly Brown.



NCW FALL FASHION SPECIAL



## Relaxed Attitude

**SCOTTY:** "Offstage, when I'm just chilling, I mainly just wear shorts and a T-shirt when I hang out casually. If I go to the golf course, I'll wear my polos, but other than that, shorts and tees."

Scotty looks especially dashing and irresistibly charming in a dark B. Tuff shirt, 7 For All Mankind jeans and classic Dingo harness boots.

**CLARE:** "Lately when I'm offstage, I run, so a lot of times I find that I'm in workout clothes quite a bit. But when I'm not in workout clothes, I love comfy boots, I love chunky boots. I wear mostly skinny jeans right now and then I love just big, comfortable, cute, long, flowy T-shirts that are real feminine, but comfortable and workable because my life is very active and I have to have clothes that can keep up with me."

Clare is too sexy for her Shyanne top from Boot Barn and curve-hugging Blank NYC pants, along with a pair of stiletto booties from her own collection.







## Style Statement

**SCOTTY:** "I've started to move more into the button-up shirts, the short-sleeved, tailored button-ups and all that jazz, and the other kinds of western shirts as well. It brings a little current western feel to it."

Scotty is classic country in a Roper western shirt, Tin Haul tee, Wrangler jeans and Dingo boots.

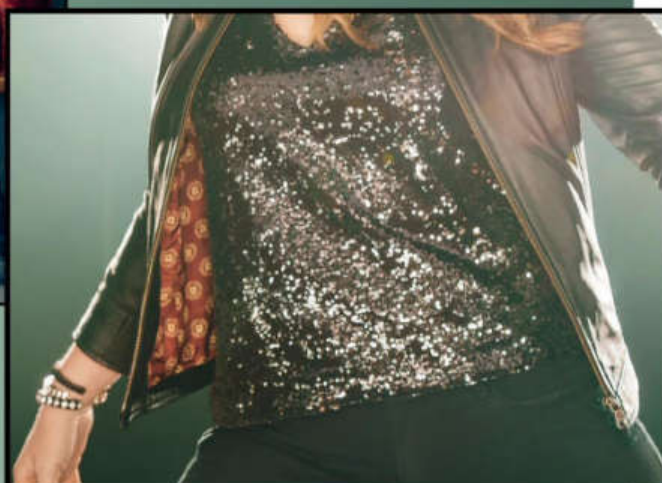


**CLARE:** "I've always loved style since I was a little girl. Even though I grew up on a farm, I would beg my mom to buy me *Vogue* and *Elle* at Walmart. I've always loved style and I definitely love rocker chic. I love just chic timeless pieces and a timeless style."

Clare's great Aztec print jacket is from Stetson.







## Lights, Camera, Action!

keep in mind where you'll wear garments and what will you'll pair them with. A great pair of boots is key!

Part of having a great Fall style is knowing what works for you and your body, but it's also fun to try something hot, new and trendy. It's important to take the time to try things on, and

**CLARE:** "Jeans are very important for me. I gotta have comfortable—but cute—boots, so a heeled boot of some kind. And a lot of times in the summertime, it's tank tops, flowy tank tops that are very freeing because I'm so active on my stage. I can't get too elaborate because I just sweat it all through. In the wintertime, I like to mix it up with lots of different jackets and accessories and kind of whatever I'm feeling that day."

**SCOTTY:** "Early on, I liked wearing T-shirts onstage, but I'm learning that the first thing they're going to do is see you, so you want to look like a star. It's been cool to get a new stylist, Jennifer Kemp. She's been great as far as stretching me a little bit with stuff I wear. She tailors it just great and everything, so it's important. You want to look like a star and sound like a star."

**NASH  
COUNTRY  
WEEKLY  
READERS**

Find the majority of the brands featured in our fall fashion pictorial at [bootbarn.com](http://bootbarn.com). Plus, **save 10% off** your next **Boot Barn** order when you use the coupon code: **PUB-CWFASHION928**.

VALID 9/18/15 TO 10/18/15.

VALID ON REGULAR-PRICED ITEMS. EXCLUDES UGG AUSTRALIA, LEVI'S, ARIAT, JUSTIN, TIMBERLAND PRO, FRYE, CARHARTT, WRANGLER 13MWZ, 47MWZ, 936DEN AND GIFT CARDS.



"SHAVING WITH SOAP AND WATER  
WON'T GET YOUR LEGS  
THIS SOFT AND SMOOTH!"

- Jana Kramer

**thirty one** | Available 10/9

For an exclusive first listen to songs from  
Jana's new album, *thirty one*, and chances to  
win prizes, visit [JanaKramer.com/PureSilk](http://JanaKramer.com/PureSilk)



Pure Silk Shave Cream contains aloe to  
moisturize your skin, giving you the smoothest,  
most touchable legs without irritation. Shaving  
with Pure Silk is the easiest way to *love your legs!*

PureSilk®



# STAY

National treasures **WILLIE NELSON**, **MERLE HAGGARD** and **LORETTA LYNN** are the purest form of gold.

BY JIM CASEY, JON FREEMAN, BOB PAXMAN

## WILLIE NELSON

**AGE:** 82

**ORIGIN:** Abbott, Texas

**LEGACY:** Willie Nelson is a jack of all trades, and a master of, well, all of them. In addition to helping usher in country's Outlaw movement, Willie has influenced multiple generations of country stars with a swagger—and album output—that is unmatched by anyone in the genre.

# GOLD

**FEW COUNTRY MUSIC ARTISTS CAN CLAIM A CAREER SPANNING 50-PLUS YEARS**, but golden boys Willie Nelson and Merle Haggard and golden gal Loretta Lynn sure can. Each one has been hard at work for more than a half-century doing what they love: making music. With Merle celebrating the 50th anniversary of his 1965 debut album, *Strangers*, on Sept. 6, he joins both Willie (*And Then I Wrote*, 1962) and Loretta (*Loretta Lynn Sings*, 1963) as one of an esteemed trio of artists who have each celebrated 50 years in country music. To commemorate these three stars reaching their Golden Anniversaries in the industry, we decided to honor them with 50 golden facts.

## MERLE HAGGARD

**AGE:** 78

**ORIGIN:** Oildale, Calif.

**LEGACY:** All you need to know about Merle's legacy is the appellation that's often affixed to his name, "Poet of the Common Man." No country singer who ever picked up a guitar or put down thoughts in song could aspire to anything higher.

## LORETTA LYNN

**AGE:** 83

**ORIGIN:** Butcher Hollow, Ky.

**LEGACY:** Loretta's songs about the domestic hardships of women and cheating partners cemented her status as one of country music's greatest singer/songwriters of all time, paving the way for future forward-thinking, buttons-pushing females like Patty Loveless, Miranda Lambert, Kacey Musgraves and others.





**WILLIE, MERLE AND LORETTA CONTINUED**

**1** **WILLIE** was born during the Great Depression in 1933 in Abbott, Texas. Raised by his grandparents, young Willie penned his first song at the age of 7 and joined his first band when he was 10.

**2** **LORETTA**'s tiny hometown, Butcher Hollow, Ky., is an unincorporated part of the Van Lear community, which was named for the director of the Consolidation Coal Company. Loretta's childhood home is still there, and her brother Herman Webb gives the tours.

**3** **MERLE** was born in a train boxcar that his father purchased in 1935 for \$500. Recently, the tiny boxcar was moved from its original location in Oildale, Calif., to the Kern County Museum, where it will be refurbished for display.



**4** After a brief stint in the Air Force in 1950, **WILLIE** attended Baylor University for two years before dropping out to focus on his music. During that time, he wrote songs that would go on to become country standards, including "Funny How Time Slips Away" and "Pretty Paper."

**5** One of eight children, **LORETTA** was followed into country music by her younger sister, Brenda Gail Webb—better known as Crystal Gayle.



**6** **MERLE** served nearly three years in San Quentin State Prison in California after attempting to rob a roadhouse in Bakersfield, Calif. A prison concert performed by Johnny Cash for the San Quentin inmates inspired Merle to straighten his life out and join the prison band.

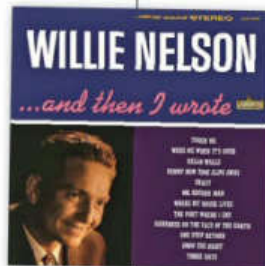
**7** **WILLIE** learned his style of singing—slightly ahead of or behind the beat—from listening to Frank Sinatra and other pop singers.

**8** **LORETTA** married her husband Oliver "Doolittle" Lynn in 1948 when she was 15 years old. By the time she was 19, she had three kids. In total, they had six children. She was married to "Doo" until his death in 1996.



**9** In his early days, **MERLE** entertained concert and TV audiences with spot-on impersonations of the top country singers of the day, including Johnny Cash and Buck Owens. He also did an impression of Marty Robbins on Glen Campbell's 1960s variety show that amazed Marty himself with its accuracy.

**10** In 1962, **WILLIE** released his debut album, *And Then I Wrote*, which featured his first solo *Billboard* Top 10 single, "Touch Me." Country Music Hall of Fame inductees Hank Cochran and Faron Young served as composers on the album.



**11** **LORETTA** was a close friend of fellow country icon Patsy Cline, who helped her navigate the often-tracherous aspects of being in the music business.



**12** **MERLE**'s first career No. 1 single, 1967's "The Fugitive," was written by Liz Anderson and husband Casey Anderson, the parents of country star Lynn Anderson. Liz has often noted that the song was inspired by the popular TV series *The Fugitive*, which starred David Janssen as a physician on the run from the law.

**13** In 1964, **WILLIE** became a Grand Ole Opry member. In 1993 he was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame.

**14** As much as she sang about her hardscrabble upbringing, **LORETTA** was also unafraid to stick it to interloping women in hilarious, fierce tunes like "You Ain't Woman Enough" and "Fist City."

**15** **MERLE** made his acting debut in 1968 in *Killers Three*, a Western drama written by Dick Clark. Merle played a sheriff

in the movie and sang his No. 1 smash, "Mama Tried." Merle also appeared on one episode of the television miniseries *Centennial*.

## GOLDEN OLDIES

All that glitters isn't gold, but these five songs from **LORETTA, WILLIE and MERLE** are 24 karats of golden goodness.

### LORETTA LYNN

1965

"When They Ring Those Golden Bells"

1968

"Harp With Golden Strings"

### MERLE HAGGARD

1977

"When My Blue Moon Turns to Gold Again"

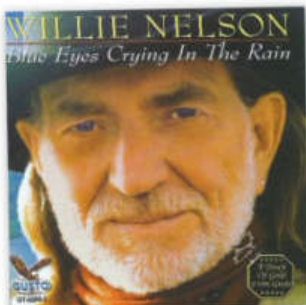
### WILLIE NELSON

1983

"Golden Earrings"

1987

"Heart of Gold"



**16** After releasing more than 30 singles from 1957 to 1974, **WILLIE** scored his first *Billboard* No. 1 single with "Blue Eyes Crying in the Rain" in 1975. He has since charted more than 20 *Billboard* No. 1s with his solo, collaborative and guest works.

**17** **LORETTA's** 1975 hit "The Pill," which was written by Lorene Allen, Don McHan and T.D. Bayless, was so controversial for its subject matter of birth control that many radio stations banned it and kept it from hitting No. 1 on the country charts. It went on to become the highest-charting pop single of Loretta's career.

**18** **MERLE** has graced the covers of several publications throughout his career. One of his more publicized was his appearance on the cover of the May 6, 1974, issue of *TIME* magazine. Merle served as the representative of the cover story, titled "Country Music: Songs of Love, Loyalty & Doubt."

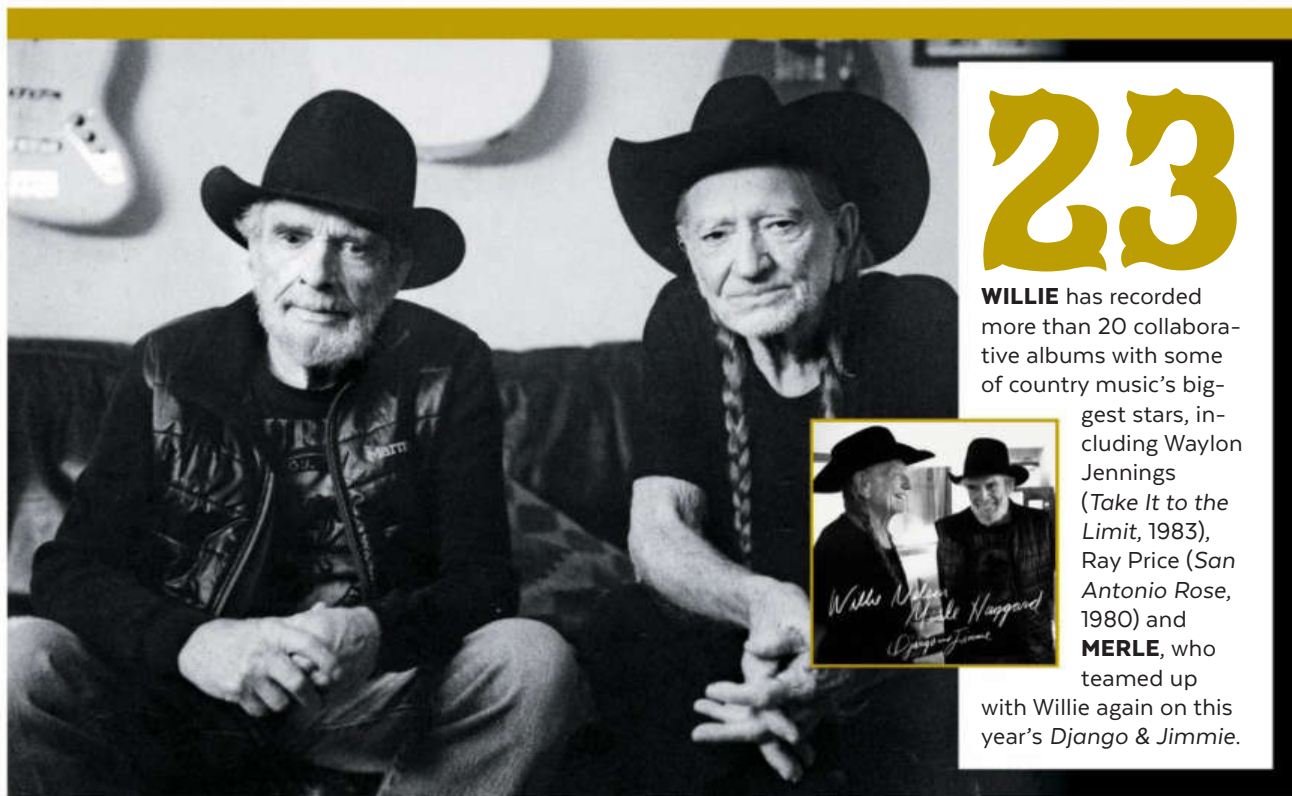
**19** In 1973, **WILLIE** held his first annual Fourth of July Picnic in Dripping Springs, Texas. Willie celebrated the 42nd anniversary of the event in 2015 with Merle, Eric Church, Kacey Musgraves, Jason Isbell and others.

**20** Many of **MERLE's** tunes have made their way into movie soundtracks, including his 1982 No. 1 "Big City" in the darkly humorous *Fargo*, "Mama Tried" in the 2003 film *Radio and "Swingin' Doors,"* which appeared in the Oscar-winning Best Picture of 2005, *Crash*.



**21** **LORETTA's** professional partnership with Conway Twitty resulted in five No. 1 hits between 1971 and 1975, including the Grammy-winning "After the Fire Is Gone."

**22** Crooner Dean Martin was likely a bit out of his element when he recorded **MERLE's** tune, "I Take a Lot of Pride in What I Am." Dean's version only made it to No. 75 on the pop charts.



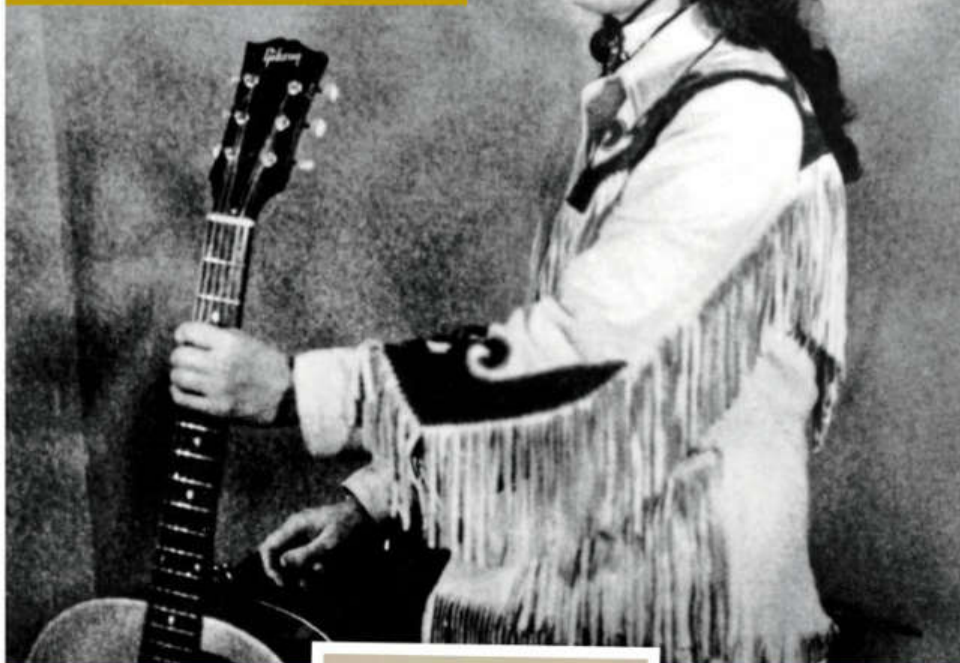
## 23

**WILLIE** has recorded more than 20 collaborative albums with some of country music's biggest stars, including Waylon Jennings (*Take It to the Limit*, 1983), Ray Price (*San Antonio Rose*, 1980) and **MERLE**, who teamed up with Willie again on this year's *Django & Jimmie*.



**24**

The first single **LORETTA** ever released, 1960's "I'm a Country Girl," made it all the way to No. 14 on the country charts. At the time, she was signed to Zero Records out of Vancouver, British Columbia.



**25** **WILLIE** was nominated for an Oscar for Best Original Song in 1981 for "On the Road Again" from *Honeysuckle Rose*. Dolly Parton was also nominated that year for "9 to 5," but they were both beat out by Michael Gore and Dean Pitchford's "Fame."

**26** In 1967, **LORETTA** landed her first No. 1 song, and one of the most enduring of her career: "Don't Come Home a-Drinkin' (With Lovin' on Your Mind)." It was reportedly inspired by her husband's struggles with alcoholism.

**27** In 1972, Ronald Reagan, the Governor of California at the time, granted **MERLE** a full pardon for his previous crime



dand removed the incident dupfrom his criminal record.

**28** To help family farmers, **WILLIE**, John Mellencamp and Neil Young created the benefit concert Farm Aid in 1985. It celebrated its 30th anniversary on Sept. 19, 2015, in Chicago and has raised more than \$48 million over the years.

**29** Songs like "Rated X," which eviscerated the double standard around divorce for men and women, made **LORETTA** a revered figure among feminists.

**30** About 10 years after receiving his pardon, **MERLE** performed at a show where Ronald Reagan, now the President of the United States, was in attendance. Merle announced, "I hope the President will be as pleased with my performance today as I was with his pardon ten years ago."

**31** **WILLIE** has appeared in more than 30 film and television productions, including starring in 1982's *Barbarosa* and making a cameo as himself in 1999's *Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me*. Yeah, baby!

**32** **Coal Miner's Daughter**, the film about **LORETTA**'s life, earned Sissy Spacek an Academy Award for Best Actress. It was based on the best-selling autobiography of the same name.

**33** **MERLE** scored 38 *Billboard* No. 1 singles during his career, placing him third on the all-time list behind George Strait and Conway Twitty. He's also fifth on the Top 10 list with 71.

**34** **WILLIE** teamed up with Waylon Jennings, Johnny Cash and Kris Kristofferson to form The Highwaymen in 1985. The supergroup landed a *Billboard* No. 1 album and song with their self-titled release.

**35** In 1972, **LORETTA** became the first woman to win the Country Music Association's coveted Entertainer of the Year Award. Including Loretta, only six solo female artists have won the honor over its 48-year history.





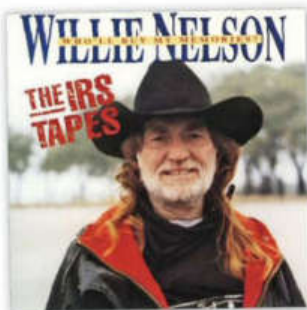
**36** **MERLE**'s duet partners have included everyone from Willie Nelson and George Jones to Jewel, Janie Fricke and even the iconic actor/director Clint Eastwood, who teamed with Merle on the 1980 No. 1 hit "Bar Room Buddies." Merle's best-loved collaboration remains the 1983 No. 1 with Willie, "Pancho and Lefty."

**37** **WILLIE** has practiced the modern Korean martial art GongKwon Yusul for the last 20 years, earning his fifth-degree black belt in 2014. Now, bow to your sensei.

**38** Over the course of her career, **LORETTA** has released a whopping 54 studio albums and sold over 45 million albums since she first started.

**39** **MERLE** wrote most of his songs, but certainly not all of them. His 1975 No. 1 single "Kentucky Gambler" was written by none other than fellow country star Dolly Parton.

**40** **WILLIE**'s assets were seized by the IRS in 1990 for owing \$16 million in back taxes. To help pay the debt, Willie released the 1992 album *The IRS Tapes: Who'll Buy My Memories*.



**41** The last Top 10 hit that **LORETTA** enjoyed was in 1982, with the song "I Lie."

**42** An all-star band comprised of Steve Wariner, Lee Roy Parnell and the members of Diamond Rio recorded a version of **MERLE**'s classic "Workin' Man's Blues" in 1994. The supergroup billed itself as Jed Zeppelin.



**43** A longtime advocate for the legalization of marijuana, **WILLIE** was arrested in 2006 and 2010 for possession of the drug. In 2016, he is set to release his own strain of weed called Willie's Reserve, which will be available in Colorado and Washington.

**44** In 1988, **LORETTA** was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame.

**45** **MERLE** evidently harbors a certain fascination with the word "strangers." It's appeared in his first Top 10 hit "(My Friends Are Gonna Be) Strangers" and "We're Strangers Again," his duet with Leona Williams. *Strangers* is also the title of his debut album. Plus, Merle's backing band is named The Strangers.



**46** **WILLIE** has been playing his trusty Martin N-20 classical guitar, Trigger, since 1969. It has been signed by more than 100 of Willie's friends and peers.



**47** Van Lear Rose, **LORETTA**'s Grammy-winning 2004 album, was produced by Jack White of revered rock bands The White Stripes, The Raconteurs and The Dead Weather.

**48** Among **MERLE**'s slew of honors: Country Music Association

Entertainer of the Year in 1970, election to the Country Music Hall of Fame in 1994 and a Grammy Lifetime Achievement award in 2006.

**49** With more than 100 albums to his credit, **WILLIE** has won 11 Grammys, including a Legend Award in 1990 and a Lifetime Achievement Award in 1999.

**50** In 2013, **LORETTA** was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by Barack Obama for her indelible contributions to the artistic and cultural history of the United States. **NCW**



A full-page photograph of Dolly Parton standing in the center of the Ryman Auditorium. She is smiling, with her arms outstretched to the sides. She is wearing a brown long-sleeved top with white lace trim along the neckline and waist, and a blue skirt with a white lace hem and gold floral patterns. The background shows the wooden pews and arched windows of the auditorium, with a sign that reads "1827 CONF GALLERY" visible behind her.

# CHURCH *With Dolly*

SEE THE RYMAN AUDITORIUM  
THROUGH DOLLY'S EYES.

PHOTOS BY JOSEPH LLANES

Dolly Parton played two extremely rare shows at Nashville's Ryman Auditorium on July 31 and August 1, earmarking the proceeds from each for charitable causes near and dear to her heart. Dubbed "Dolly: Pure & Simple," the predominantly acoustic set was an hour and 45 minutes' worth of classic tunes and a celebration of individual diversity. "We should respect and embrace one another for our differences," she told the crowd following her autobiographical "Coat of Many Colors" that deals with the bullying she felt as a child in her simple, homemade coat. *Nash Country Weekly* was fortunate enough to shadow Dolly through her stand at the Ryman and found that she sparkles with color and personality even when she's not performing.





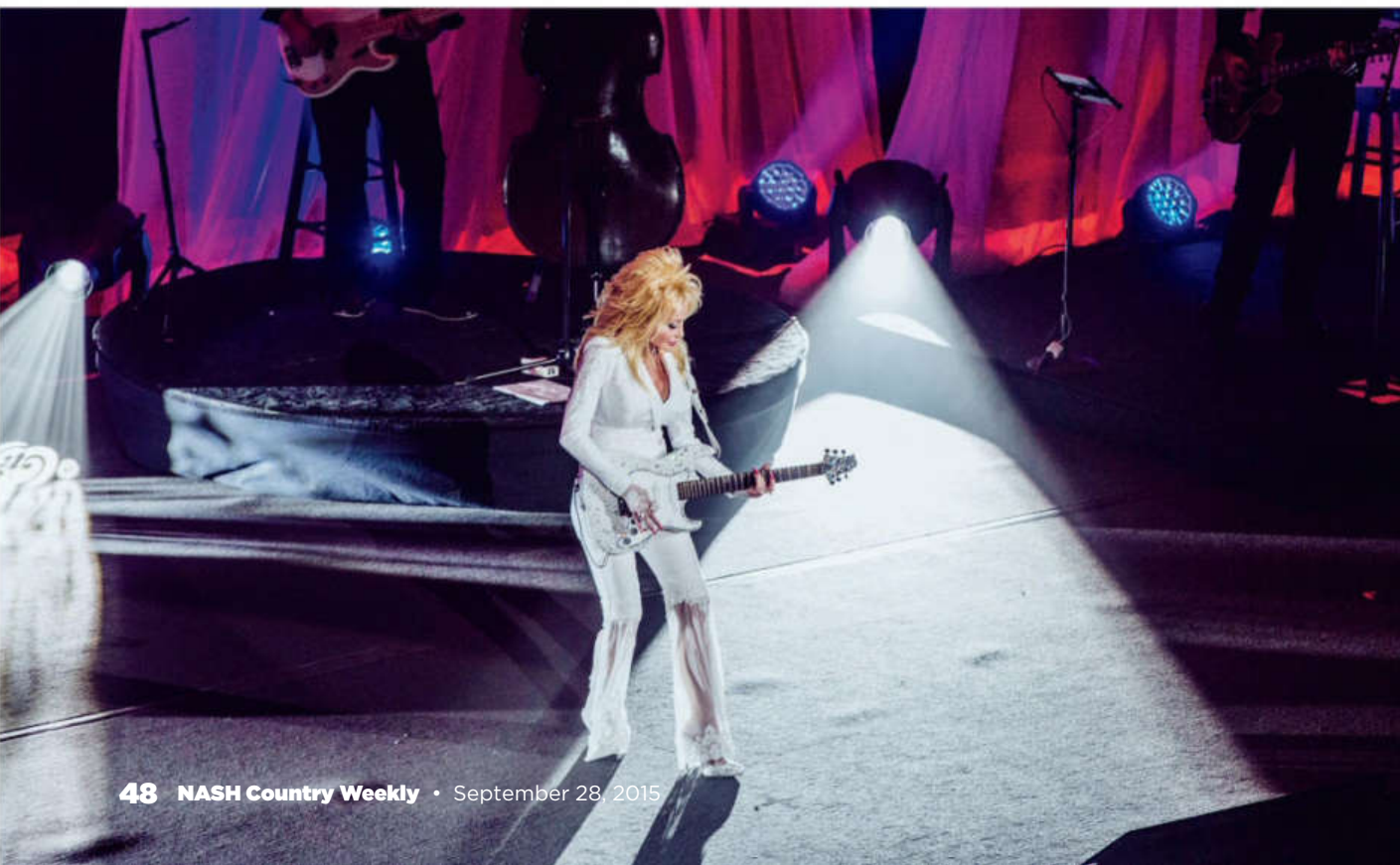
Hello, Dolly! With her team, Dolly arrives at the Ryman for a big day of rehearsals and an even bigger evening of performances.







Dolly showed every side of her artistry during the performances, reaching back to her gospel roots to sing multipart harmony with her band (above), and tossing an electric guitar around her shoulder (below) when she wanted to crank things up a bit.



*“We should  
respect  
and embrace  
one another  
for our  
differences.”*



Dolly's set list spanned her entire career and called for stage props like a simple church pew and hymnal, or an instrument like the autoharp or banjo.





# THE NEW NORMAL

**JEWEL ADJUSTS TO LIFE ON HER  
OWN TERMS WITH A STRIPPED-DOWN  
ALBUM AND A MEMOIR.**

**HIS IS THE TINY**, innocent voice that has gotten Jewel through the past year.

“Mommy, I love youuuuu,” the singer/songwriter’s son, Kase, can be overheard saying during *Nash Country Weekly*’s recent interview with his famous mom.

“I love you too, but Mommy has to work for a few minutes,” Jewel says in a hushed voice that we have grown accustomed to hearing throughout her 20 years of heart-heavy music. “I need you to be quiet for just a little longer.”

She apologizes for the interruption, even though the apology is wholly unnecessary.

This is a brief look into the life of an Alaskan-born beauty. This is the single mother’s life that remains after her divorce from her husband of 10 years, Ty Murray. This is the life of a singer and first-time author who just released her memoir, titled *Never Broken*, and her latest album,

*Picking Up the Pieces*, only days apart.

It’s a life that Jewel never envisioned, but one in which she finds herself content.

“It’s an interesting time,” she begins. “It’s the first time in my life where I am really free to be on my own. I don’t have anyone else’s influence. I don’t have a huge drama in my life that I am trying to fix.”

She pauses, laying down her strength for a few moments.

“It’s sad, because I didn’t want to get a divorce. It’s been tough and I think it’s going to take a long time to realize that I don’t necessarily need that type of family that I really wanted,” she says. “I am redefining myself again at 41, but I am happy and I have been happy to do the work. I had a lot to learn about my marriage and why it didn’t work. And that’s why I did a new

record and that’s why I didn’t do it on a major label and that’s why I’m probably not going to get on a traditional radio station. I am at a point where I can be completely honest with myself. I didn’t think I could be the mom I wanted to be and put out a mainstream record.”

Released on September 11 and marking her first new record since 2010’s *Sweet and Wild*, *Picking Up the Pieces* features 14 tracks. Some of them tell her current story (“Love Used to Be,” “Mercy”) while others are previously performed but never-before-recorded fan favorites (“Carnivore,” “Boy Needs a Bike”).

“I made this record while I was going through divorce,” says Jewel, who recruited musicians for the project primarily from the band of Neil Young, an artist she particularly admires. “It was definitely a return to a lot of parts of myself



(Above) Jewel takes a break from recording to spend some time with her son, Kase; (below left) Album artwork for *Picking Up the Pieces*; (below right) In the studio in 2015.



that I think fell asleep and I didn't realize it," she explains.

Serving as a kind of bookend to her groundbreaking 1995 *Pieces of You* album, *Picking Up the Pieces* is both raw and emotional. "I wanted to make a record that was sort of Americana and folk-driven," she says, "with sort of a country influence to it. It's a very singer/songwriter type of record and a very lyric-driven record, in the way that *Pieces of You* was recorded."

The most revealing song on the record could be "My Father's Daughter," an autobiographical number that puts Jewel alongside one of her longtime musical heroes—Dolly Parton.

"That song is really the story of my family's life," Jewel says. "I'm not sure what gave me the nerve to reach out to [Dolly] to sing it with me and I was shocked that she said

yes. She was set to record at 8 a.m. and she was there at 7:45. She was a true, old-school professional."

And while the recording of her album moved along quickly, it was the memoir that Jewel was writing simultaneously that proved to be an obstacle. "I consider myself a short-form writer, so writing a book long-form was hard for me," admits Jewel, who worked on the book while Kase was at school. "The pacing is so different. I really struggled at first. Luckily, I had a great editor that picked me off the floor. I worked on my pace and my rhythm and my timing."

Of course, with a history that includes a childhood spent in a house with no running water and later living in a car during the beginning of her musical career, the idea of a memoir has been one that has been simmering in her head for a

number of years. "When I was 20, I would get offers to do a movie about my life, but I never felt like it was an appropriate time."

This time, the moment was right.

"My heart dictates so much of what I do, and at my age and where I am in my life, I just felt it was time," she says. "So many people in my life have had times when they were homeless, and I wanted to show how I didn't become a statistic of that. When things were tough, writing was my therapist. I truly believe that you are the architect of your life, no matter your background."

Just then, Kase interrupts.

"Mom, I'm hungryyyyyyyy," he says.

"OK, honey, I'm done," she says.

"Let's get you something to eat."

Turning her attention once again to her boy, Jewel carries on with her life—one that just might be reaching its sweetest season yet.

**TRICIA DESPRES**





# PATRICK SWEANY

**OHIO-BORN BLUES ROCKER** Patrick Sweany has spent most of his adult life busting out scorching solos and hollering at people in clubs all over the country, but now that he's settled down and planted some roots in Nashville, he's trying a more thoughtful approach.

On his recently released seventh full-length album, *Daytime Turned to Nighttime*, Patrick drops the hollering in favor of nuance, pairing a soulful baritone voice with a Southern-fried combination of funky drums and bass, fingerpicked acoustic guitars and heartfelt background vocals. Mellow and mature, his new sound is sometimes old-timey, sometimes a bit psychedelic, but 100 percent authentic.

"A lot of this record was about reconnecting the things that made me from earlier in my life," he tells *Nash Country Weekly*. "I've spent four or five albums really shouting, and I just felt like I wasn't representing all that I can do."

Now 40 years old, happily married and feeling like a self-described "big boy" for the first time, this is a new path for Patrick. He got his start in the college bars of Kent, Ohio, honing a high-energy, in-your-face electric blues sound that was more about raw emotion than pretty melodies. But for *Daytime Turned to Nighttime*, inspiration came not from the grit of rust-belt blues but from the stripped-down, swampy Southern funk of artists like Bobbie Gentry and Tony Joe White.

**FOR FANS OF:**  
**MARSHALL TUCKER BAND, WILSON PICKETT,**  
**LIGHTNIN' HOPKINS**



## ESSENTIAL LISTENING

"FIRST OF THE WEEK"

"HERE TO STAY  
(ROCK & ROLL)"

"MANSFIELD STREET"

"LONG WAY DOWN"

All songs from *Daytime Turned to Nighttime*.  
For more information, visit [patricksweasy.com](http://patricksweasy.com)

"It's not twangy and it's not that gospel-singer shouty stuff that I definitely respond to," he says of the late '60s/early '70s era in roots music. "It's not even bluesy, it's just this unique thing that is very controlled, laid-back and self-assured, and I just felt like that was a very mature and very strong point of view to take."

On 10 tracks, Patrick follows that vein of inspiration, getting deeply personal and laying out struggles connected to buying his first house, getting older on the road, staying sensitive to his wife back home and much more. Producer Joe McMahan pits rock-solid rhythms and boisterous bass lines against slippery, intricate guitars and Patrick's vulnerable but determined vocals.

The project's woozy, grooving debut single, "First of the Week," speaks to his road-warrior lifestyle—but it will also ring true to any couple juggling conflicting schedules—while "Here to Stay (Rock & Roll)," a back-porch anthem full of dizzy, chicken-picked guitar runs, finds Patrick trying to convince himself after all this time that he chose the right profession.

"Before [previous album] *Close to the Floor* came out, I was thinking maybe that was it for me," he admits. "I slept on an air mattress—three guys to a hotel room—for a decade and a half just to make sure this thing could sustain itself. So 'Here to Stay' is just me saying, 'I'm comfortable with who I am. I think I've found that I can do this.' Now I'm not thinking that this is the last one."

For fans of Patrick's electrifying shout-vocals, "Back Home" is a "straight-ahead one-and-a-half-chord blues," while "Sweethearts Together" slows to a crawl for a Ray Charles-esque country love song. Meanwhile, "Mansfield Street" is a soulful, BB-gun-toting celebration of the quirky artisan enclave known as East Nashville, where Patrick convinced his wife to move seven years ago. Patrick says his wife was skeptical of the neighborhood at first (owing to its rougher elements) but she had faith in him and slowly the place became their home, boosting his career by connecting him with many other musicians along the way. Now it's time to pay her back.

"I realized it's time to be a big boy," he says. "She's put her trust in me for this long, there's gotta be some pay-out and I've gotta take some chances, too. That's really the heart of this whole record." **CHRIS PARTON**

# "My Granddaughter, My Joy"

**Heirloom Porcelain®**

**Musical Figurine**

Premiering at only  
**\$39.99**



Lavished with  
platinum accents,  
filigree and  
inscription



Plays the inspiring  
melody of  
"The Wind Beneath  
My Wings"

Certificate of Authenticity  
and 365-day Guarantee

[www.bradfordexchange.com](http://www.bradfordexchange.com)

Shown smaller than actual  
size of about 8 inches high.

A granddaughter is a legacy of love, bringing generations together and brightening the lives of everyone around her. Now you can celebrate the joy of this special relationship with the "My Granddaughter, My Joy" Musical Figurine. Featuring an elegant grandmother angel and her beloved granddaughter, this touching portrayal magnificently captures this precious bond of love in lustrous Heirloom Porcelain®. This hand-sculpted, musical masterpiece speaks to your heart with serenely beautiful faces and glorious arching wings, perfected by hand-applied gloss and porcelain bisque finishes. Scripted in platinum on the skirts, the eloquent inspiration, "My Granddaughter, My Joy," puts tender feelings into words. An intricate platinum filigree

design borders the dress hems. For the perfect finishing touch, it plays the inspirational melody of "The Wind Beneath My Wings."

***Urgent Notification! Availability Is Strictly Limited.***

Given the time-intensive hand-crafting, demand for this fine collectible could rapidly exceed availability. Be one of the first to get this exquisite musical figurine at only \$39.99\*, payable in two installments of \$19.99, the first due before shipment—and backed by our 365-day guarantee. *Your prompt response is critical.* To secure your reservation, send no money now. Return your Reservation Application today!

©2015 BGE 15-28879-001-B19

**RESERVATION APPLICATION**

**SEND NO MONEY NOW**

THE  
**BRADFORD EXCHANGE**

9345 Milwaukee Avenue · Niles, IL 60714-1393

**YES.** Please enter my order for the "My Granddaughter, My Joy" Heirloom Porcelain® Musical Figurine as described in this announcement. Limit: one per order.

**Please Respond Promptly**

Mrs. Mr. Ms.

Name (Please Print Clearly)

Address

City

State

Zip

**15-28879-001-E08102**

\*Plus \$7.99 shipping and service. Limited-edition presentation restricted to 95 firing days. Please allow 4-8 weeks after initial payment for shipment. Sales subject to product availability and order acceptance.



*BEHIND THE SONG*

# SAVINGS BOND





Old Dominion's Matthew Ramsey and Brad Tursi are no strangers to cranking out a hit song or two. Matthew has had recent success with Dierks Bentley's "Say You Do," while Brad found similar success just a couple of weeks later with Tyler Farr's "A Guy Walks Into a Bar." And when they write songs together, the magic is just as potent.

"Brad and I never really set out to write for someone or for ourselves, we just try to write the best song we can," says Matthew. "The only thing we chase is the best song possible."

Matthew felt he had the basis for a great song when he was en route to Music Row to meet Brad and hitmaker Andrew Dorff for a songwriting appointment. "I came across an idea that morning, so I recorded it in my phone so I wouldn't forget it," recalls Matthew. "I couldn't wait to play it for them."

When the three of them settled in and started the brainstorming process, Matthew shared what he had with his friends, and he got just the reaction he wanted. "Andrew and I both thought it was a really cool idea," says Brad. "So it was our job to kind of take it the rest of the way of where it needed to go."

The further the song developed, the more it picked up a certain feel, a flavor that reminded them of one artist in particular: Kenny Chesney. "We got about halfway through that song, and I said, 'Man, this sounds like it would be perfect for Chesney,'" says Matthew. "When you say something like that, it never actually makes its way to that person, so we didn't think much of it."

After 45 minutes, "Save It for a Rainy Day" was in the books and ready to be demoed. Ironically enough, the song did find its way to Kenny and onto his newest album, *The Big Revival*. The bond between Kenny and Old Dominion continued to grow when the superstar asked the band to join him on his Big Revival Tour, which turned into a win-win

## "SAVE IT FOR A RAINY DAY"

KENNY CHESNEY

WRITERS: Andrew Dorff, Matthew Ramsey, Brad Tursi



## DORFF ON SONGS

Songwriter **ANDREW DORFF** has been on a steady roll lately. Many of his tunes have been recorded by some of today's hottest stars, including:

**"KISS ME WHEN I'M DOWN"**  
Gary Allan

**"SOMEBODY'S HEARTBREAK"**  
Hunter Hayes

**"THIS KIND OF TOWN"**  
Justin Moore

**"BLEED RED"**  
Ronnie Dunn

**"MY EYES"**  
Blake Shelton

**"NEON LIGHT"**  
Blake Shelton

for Old Dominion, as they got to hear their song live every single night.

"We had a couple of really cool moments on that tour with that song," Matthew reflects. "Just to be standing on the stage and hearing him launch into that song for the first time was an incredible feeling. Then a few months later, we were just hanging out at some stadium, and he just walked up to me very nonchalant and said, 'Oh hey, by the way, your song's the next single.' To hear it straight from his mouth was pretty exciting."

And watching it climb the charts is even more exciting for Matthew, Brad and Andrew. After only three months, "Save It for a Rainy Day" is inching its way to becoming another Top 5 hit for Kenny and the songwriters.

"It's one of my favorite songs I've been a part of writing," Brad says. "Every time I listen to it—Kenny's version or even our demo version—it just gets to me. I am definitely so proud to have my name on the credits on this one."

ALANNA CONAWAY



The week of Sept. 19, 2015

## TOP 25 BILLBOARD ALBUMS

| TW | LW | TITLE / ARTIST                                                    |
|----|----|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1  | 1  | <b>KILL THE LIGHTS</b><br>LUKE BRYAN                              |
| 2  | —  | <b>START HERE</b><br>MADDIE & TAE                                 |
| 3  | 4  | <b>MONTEVALLO</b><br>SAM HUNT                                     |
| 4  | 5  | <b>JEKYLL + HYDE</b><br>ZAC BROWN BAND                            |
| 5  | 6  | <b>THE OUTSIDERS</b><br>ERIC CHURCH                               |
| 6  | 3  | <b>ELVIS FOREVER</b><br>ELVIS PRESLEY                             |
| 7  | 2  | <b>WILD ONES</b><br>KIP MOORE                                     |
| 8  | 7  | <b>ANYTHING GOES</b><br>FLORIDA GEORGIA LINE                      |
| 9  | 9  | <b>PAIN KILLER</b><br>LITTLE BIG TOWN                             |
| 10 | 8  | <b>ANGELS AND ALCOHOL</b><br>ALAN JACKSON                         |
| 11 | 10 | <b>JUST AS I AM</b><br>BRANTLEY GILBERT                           |
| 12 | 12 | <b>OLD BOOTS, NEW DIRT</b><br>JASON ALDEAN                        |
| 13 | 29 | <b>SOUTHERN STYLE</b><br>DARIUS RUCKER                            |
| 14 | 13 | <b>CRASH MY PARTY</b><br>LUKE BRYAN                               |
| 15 | —  | <b>MUD DIGGER, VOLUME 6</b><br>VARIOUS ARTISTS                    |
| 16 | 15 | <b>NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL COUNTRY, VOLUME 8</b> • VARIOUS ARTISTS |
| 17 | 14 | <b>PAGEANT MATERIAL</b><br>KACEY MUSGRAVES                        |
| 18 | 11 | <b>SOMETHING MORE THAN FREE</b><br>JASON ISBELL                   |
| 19 | 18 | <b>THE BIG REVIVAL</b><br>KENNY CHESNEY                           |
| 20 | 25 | <b>TRAVELLER</b><br>CHRIS STAPLETON                               |
| 21 | 20 | <b>IGNITE THE NIGHT</b><br>CHASE RICE                             |
| 22 | 17 | <b>GREATEST HITS SO FAR . . .</b><br>ZAC BROWN BAND               |
| 23 | 16 | <b>MICHAEL RAY</b><br>MICHAEL RAY                                 |
| 24 | 22 | <b>THE FIRST TIME</b><br>KELSEA BALLERINI                         |
| 25 | 23 | <b>COLE SWINDELL</b><br>COLE SWINDELL                             |

## TOP 25 BILLBOARD SINGLES

| TW | LW | TITLE / ARTIST                                          |
|----|----|---------------------------------------------------------|
| 1  | 2  | <b>HELL OF A NIGHT</b><br>DUSTIN LYNCH                  |
| 2  | 3  | <b>CRASH AND BURN</b><br>THOMAS RHETT                   |
| 3  | 5  | <b>JOHN COUGAR, JOHN DEERE, JOHN 3:16</b> • KEITH URBAN |
| 4  | 4  | <b>BUY ME A BOAT</b><br>CHRIS JANSON                    |
| 5  | 1  | <b>HOUSE PARTY</b><br>SAM HUNT                          |
| 6  | 8  | <b>SAVE IT FOR A RAINY DAY</b><br>KENNY CHESNEY         |
| 7  | 7  | <b>LOSE MY MIND</b><br>BRETT ELDREDGE                   |
| 8  | 13 | <b>STRIP IT DOWN</b><br>LUKE BRYAN                      |
| 9  | 10 | <b>ANYTHING GOES</b><br>FLORIDA GEORGIA LINE            |
| 10 | 9  | <b>FLY</b><br>MADDIE & TAE                              |
| 11 | 11 | <b>LIKE A WRECKING BALL</b><br>ERIC CHURCH              |
| 12 | 12 | <b>GONNA WANNA TONIGHT</b><br>CHASE RICE                |
| 13 | 14 | <b>LET ME SEE YA GIRL</b><br>COLE SWINDELL              |
| 14 | 16 | <b>BREAK UP WITH HIM</b><br>OLD DOMINION                |
| 15 | 17 | <b>NOTHIN' LIKE YOU</b><br>DAN + SHAY                   |
| 16 | 18 | <b>GONNA</b><br>BLAKE SHELTON                           |
| 17 | 22 | <b>SMOKE BREAK</b><br>CARRIE UNDERWOOD                  |
| 18 | 19 | <b>REAL LIFE</b><br>JAKE OWEN                           |
| 19 | 20 | <b>LONG STRETCH OF LOVE</b><br>LADY ANTEBELLUM          |
| 20 | 24 | <b>I'M COMIN' OVER</b><br>CHRIS YOUNG                   |
| 21 | 21 | <b>I'M TO BLAME</b><br>KIP MOORE                        |
| 22 | 23 | <b>BURNING HOUSE</b><br>CAM                             |
| 23 | 27 | <b>TOP OF THE WORLD</b><br>TIM MCGRAW                   |
| 24 | 25 | <b>RUN AWAY WITH YOU</b><br>BIG & RICH                  |
| 25 | 26 | <b>STAY A LITTLE LONGER</b><br>BROTHERS OSBORNE         |

## TOP 10 AMERICANA AIRPLAY

| TW | LW | TITLE / ARTIST                                                |
|----|----|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1  | 1  | <b>SOMETHING MORE THAN FREE</b><br>JASON ISBELL               |
| 2  | 2  | <b>PAGEANT MATERIAL</b><br>KACEY MUSGRAVES                    |
| 3  | 3  | <b>WATKINS FAMILY HOUR</b><br>WATKINS FAMILY HOUR             |
| 4  | 4  | <b>DIDN'T IT RAIN</b><br>AMY HELM                             |
| 5  | 7  | <b>THE BLADE</b><br>ASHLEY MONROE                             |
| 6  | 6  | <b>BITTERSWEET</b><br>KASEY CHAMBERS                          |
| 7  | 9  | <b>ASHES &amp; DUST</b><br>WARREN HAYNES FEAT. RAILROAD EARTH |
| 8  | 8  | <b>CALL ME INSANE</b><br>DALE WATSON                          |
| 9  | 23 | <b>LOST TIME</b><br>DAVE ALVIN & PHIL ALVIN                   |
| 10 | 5  | <b>STILL</b><br>RICHARD THOMPSON                              |

SOURCE: AMERICANA AIRPLAY CHART

## rdio TOP 5 TRENDING COUNTRY SONGS\*

| TW | TITLE / ARTIST                             |
|----|--------------------------------------------|
| 1  | <b>CRUISE</b><br>FLORIDA GEORGIA LINE      |
| 2  | <b>STRIP IT DOWN</b><br>LUKE BRYAN         |
| 3  | <b>TAKE YOUR TIME</b><br>SAM HUNT          |
| 4  | <b>WAITIN' ON A PLANE</b><br>MADDIE & TAE  |
| 5  | <b>LIKE A WRECKING BALL</b><br>ERIC CHURCH |

## TOP 5 TRENDING COUNTRY/AMERICANA/SOUTHERN ALBUMS\*

| TW | TITLE / ARTIST                                            |
|----|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| 1  | <b>ANYTHING GOES</b><br>FLORIDA GEORGIA LINE              |
| 2  | <b>WILD ONES</b><br>KIP MOORE                             |
| 3  | <b>GOLDEN ROAD</b><br>KEITH URBAN                         |
| 4  | <b>NUMBER ONE HITS</b><br>TIM MCGRAW                      |
| 5  | <b>JUDGE JERROD &amp; THE HUNG JURY</b><br>JERROD NIEMANN |

\*DATA FROM SEPT. 7, 2015

© 2015, BILLBOARD/65 GLOBAL MEDIA/NIELSEN ENTERTAINMENT

# Peace and Patience

Handcrafted crystalline Dachshund  
shares the tender powers of  
calmness and contentment of  
the amethyst gemstone!



©2015 HC. All Rights Reserved.



Shown  
approximate  
size of 4" high



## An amethyst-inspired Dachshund soothes the soul!

Dog-lovers everywhere are charmed by the busy little attitude of the frisky Dachshund. Now The Hamilton Collection brings a dash of peace and tranquility to this popular breed with a first-ever figurine inspired by the calming qualities of the lustrous amethyst.

"Radiance of the Amethyst" is an adorable doxie handcrafted in sparkling crystalline. Designed by artist Blake Jensen, every crisp faceted edge reflects the light and shines like

the precious stone that inspired it to fill your home with amity and serenity.

*Mirrored base brings added sparkle.*

For an extra shine, the decorative mirror base makes your Dachshund figurine shimmer like a real amethyst gem.

**365-Day Money Back Guarantee!**

Limited to 95 casting days, each issue is hand-numbered with a Certificate of Authenticity. Mail the attached coupon to reserve your **FREE PREVIEW** now. Your satisfaction is guaranteed or your money back!

[HamiltonCollection.com/AmethystDoxie](http://HamiltonCollection.com/AmethystDoxie)

09-06261-001-BD

MAIL TO:

**The Hamilton Collection**

9204 Center For The Arts Drive, Niles, Illinois 60714-1300

**Send No Money Now!**

☒ **YES!** Please accept my order for "**Radiance of the Amethyst**" for the issue price of \$29.99\*. **I need send no money now.** I will be billed with shipment.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please print clearly.)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

\*Add \$8.99 for shipping and service. Deliveries to FL and IL will be billed appropriate sales tax. All orders are subject to product availability and credit approval. Allow 6 to 8 weeks for shipment.

**09-06261-001-E08101**



WHO DO YOU CONSIDER TO BE THE KING AND QUEEN OF COUNTRY MUSIC TODAY?



Dolly Parton and Kenny Rogers.  
**JOSHUA CARLTON | NASHVILLE**



I'm torn between  
the King being  
Jason Isbell or  
Sturgill Simpson  
and the Queen,  
Dolly. She's got it.  
She's still got it.  
**ASHLEY AVIOTTI**  
**MEMPHIS**



Elizabeth Cook and Dale Watson,  
because they are country music.  
**BLAKE BROWNING | SPRINGFIELD, TENN.**

The King of country music today, I would have to say that it is probably still Garth Brooks because I don't know how many artists could retire for 13 years, come back and still have the same people and same crowd singing every song with him. And the Queen, of course, would be Dolly Parton. Who else can be selling out crowds and arenas night after night, around the world, and doing it for this long?

**JESSI MANESS | WHITES CREEK, TENN.**



ADVERTISEMENT

# GET **NASH Country Weekly** TO GO!

**DIGITAL  
SUBSCRIPTION  
SALE!**

**GET A YEAR OF  
COUNTRY WEEKLY  
FOR JUST  
\$59.99**



Available on iPhone®, iPad®, Kindle Fire™, Nook™, Kobo™ and Android tablets and phones.



Apple, the Apple logo, iPhone and iPad are trademarks of Apple Inc., registered in the U.S. and other countries. App Store is a service mark of Apple Inc. Kindle and Kindle Fire are trademarks of Amazon.com, Inc or its affiliates. NOOK is a registered trademark of barnesandnoble.com LLC or its affiliates. Google Play is a trademark of Google Inc.



# WORDSEARCH

Compiled by John Reiman

## COUNTRY JOES

J R E O J P U M E T E S O C N J T B W S  
G J J G S K I D R O W J O E D I F F I E  
C H E Y L E E O J E Y E N O T T O C T G  
M P S V E R B C R M T E V D N Q T H C Y  
L W V B I L L I E J O S P E A R S G H K  
L A G J U L K B K T A G V T B E H I W W  
A L F O O S O Y L O W J N O L B E L O J  
S K O D M E K T A U T O U B W Q Y Y N T  
N A V E L A L V W G T C W I A R J E I B  
O W R E V A H S E O J Y L L I B O N L M  
B A E M Q E Y G O D H A U L T I E O U E  
E Y U E F T N T J N E S A Y I W H O K X  
O J C S Z N K E Y L N A W J N E E R S I  
J O E S T A M P L E Y I Z O O P Y N I C  
N E S I Q L K G L O K K E E N Q M O M A  
A S O N W A Y F I J J Y Z R J K O D Y N  
B O J A P G R X B Q B Z T O O K E E E J  
B U H W C E O N I T R A M Y E O J O O O  
F T N I O O Y N O S I L L A E O J J J E  
R H O J F J O E N I C H O L S A C D J Y

BANJO  
BILLIE JO SPEARS  
BILLY JOE ROYAL  
BILLY JOE SHAVER  
BILLY JOE WALKER JR.  
COTTON EYE JOE  
HEY JOE (HEY MOE)  
JO DEE MESSINA  
JO-EL SONNIER  
JOE ALLISON  
JOE BONSALE

JOE DIFFIE  
JOE DON ROONEY  
JOE ELY  
JOE GALANTE  
JOE KNOWS HOW TO LIVE  
JOE NICHOLS  
JOE SOUTH  
JOE STAMPLEY  
JOEY  
JOEY MARTIN  
JOEY MISKULIN

JOLE BLON  
JOLENE  
JOSE CUERVO  
MEXICAN JOE  
ODE TO BILLY JOE  
SET 'EM UP JOE  
SKID ROW JOE  
WAITIN' ON JOE  
WALKAWAY JOE



Find the words, titles and phrases in this wordsearch challenge submitted by **BRIAN NEELY** of Canonburg, Pa. NOTE—they may appear vertically, horizontally, diagonally, backward or forward. Good luck!

*Get your Puzzle Published and*

**WE WILL PAY YOU**

**\$25**

We need your submissions more than ever! Make up a list of words and phrases about a particular star, topic or theme related to country music. Email a list and recent, clear photo of yourself to [letters@countryweekly.com](mailto:letters@countryweekly.com) and type "Wordsearch" in the subject line or mail to **NASH COUNTRY WEEKLY Wordsearch, 506 2nd Ave. South, Suite 200, Nashville, TN 37210.**

If we choose your list to make a Wordsearch puzzle, we'll publish your photo and pay you \$25! Sorry, but submitted photos cannot be returned.

*The first SoTruly Real<sup>®</sup> baby doll so lifelike, she “breathes!”*

*Ashley*

by  
Master Doll Artist  
Andrea Arcello

Meet our first  
*SoTruly Real<sup>®</sup>*  
“breathing” newborn!

*See and feel this precious newborn  
“breathe,” so close to real life!*

Tiny *Ashley* is only a few hours old. When she was first put into your waiting arms, she seemed like a small, perfect miracle. Her gentle breathing tells you that even now, she feels content to be loved by you!

*Ashley* is our first So Truly Real<sup>®</sup> “breathing” baby doll, designed by artist Andrea Arcello. A mechanism tucked inside the doll raises and lowers her tiny chest in a lifelike breathing pattern.

*Ashley* looks and feels so real, from her baby-soft *RealTouch<sup>®</sup>* vinyl skin to her delicate wisps of hand-applied baby hair. She has perfectly formed newborn features, right down to her long limbs with their tiny, hand-painted fingernails and toenails. And she feels just like an infant in your arms. *Ashley* comes to you in a newborn “hospital” tee shirt, cap, booties and diaper, adding even more to her realism.

*An Ashton-Drake Exclusive, available only from us!*

Others have paid thousands of dollars for a one-of-a-kind doll from Andrea Arcello, but you can have baby *Ashley* for only \$129.99\*, payable in 5 payments of \$25.99. Once you pick her up, see and even feel her “breathe,” you’ll fall in love with *Ashley* in an instant. Our 365-day guarantee assures your complete satisfaction. To order, *send no money now*. Just complete and mail the coupon today.

*Feel her  
breathe!*



Adding to her realism, “Ashley” is 15” long.  
Blanket not included.

This doll is not a toy; she is a fine collectible  
to be enjoyed by adult collectors.

[www.ashtondrake.com/ashley](http://www.ashtondrake.com/ashley)

©2015 The Ashton Drake Galleries,  
9200 N. Maryland Ave., Niles, IL 60714-1397  
03-00372-001-BIR



9200 North Maryland Ave., Niles, Illinois 60714-1397

PLEASE RESPOND PROMPTLY

☐ **YES!** Please reserve *Ashley*, the very first So Truly Real<sup>®</sup> “breathing” baby ever created, for me as described in this announcement.

Name (please print clearly) \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. No. \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_ **03-00372-001-D08104**

\*Plus a total of \$14.99 shipping and service charges. Please allow 2 to 4 weeks for shipment after initial payment is received. All orders are subject to acceptance.



# NASH Country Weekly

NASH Country Weekly Magazine | 506 2nd Ave. South, Suite 200 | Nashville, TN 37210 | (615) 259-1111

**Editor in Chief**  
**LISA KONICKI**

Managing Editor  
Jon Freeman

Deputy Editor  
Jim Casey

Senior Writers  
Bob Paxman, Tammy Ragusa

Art Director  
Chris Allen

Graphic Designer  
Martha Ressler

Production Manager  
Will Branham

Photo Editor  
Elissa C. Newland

Assistant Photo Editor  
Carissa Riccardi

Web Producer/Designer  
Jason Simanek

Copy Editors  
John Reiman, Steve Morley

**ADVERTISING SALES**

Publisher  
Jeff Meltesen

For all advertising inquiries contact  
615-727-6952  
jmeltesen@countryweekly.com

Cumulus Media, Inc.  
3280 Peachtree Road, NW, Suite 2300  
Atlanta, GA 30305

Chairman & Chief Executive Officer  
Lew Dickey

Executive Vice President  
John Dickey

Chief Financial Officer  
JP Hannan

Senior Director of Digital Monetization  
Leslie Caraccilo

Director of Brand Integration  
and Strategic Partnerships  
Ashley Tate

**FOR SUBSCRIPTION ORDERS AND CUSTOMER SERVICE, PLEASE CALL (877) 566-5832.**

## CONTRIBUTORS

*We get by with a little help from our friends.*



**Jeremy Ryan**

is a professional photographer in Nashville, Tenn. With a large spectrum of work ranging from album cover art and head shots to editorial and corporate publication, Jeremy caters to his client's needs while always staying true to his artistic sensibility. He'll stop at absolutely nothing to get "the shot."



**Gayle Thompson**

has contributed stories to *Nash Country Weekly* as well as to *The Boot*, *Rolling Stone*, *Radio.com* and several other outlets. When not frantically trying to meet a deadline, she can be found playing with her 3-year-old, trying new restaurants with her husband or buried in a book, usually with a cup of coffee nearby.



**Joseph Llanes**

is a photographer who is inspired by the atmosphere that surrounded him as a child in Mexico. Looking past the surface, the people and abandoned buildings became a backdrop for the classic style of portraiture he photographs today.



**Christopher Parton**

is a freelance journalist living in Nashville. He's been covering country music since 2008 and is also a contributor to *Rolling Stone Country* and *Nashville Scene*.

# SUBSCRIBE TODAY!



**GET NASH  
COUNTRY  
WEEKLY  
DELIVERED  
RIGHT TO YOUR  
MAILBOX!**

**If you reside in the U.S.,  
you can subscribe  
or renew by going to  
[CountryWeekly.com](http://CountryWeekly.com)  
or mailing in the  
form below**

**YES! Please send me:**

- ☐ 1-year subscription for \$49.97  
☐ 6-month subscription for \$39.97

(Allow 6-8 weeks for  
delivery of your first issue.)

☐ **Payment enclosed**

(Check made payable to

**Country Weekly** must be enclosed  
for order to be processed.)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_  
Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**SEND THIS FORM TO:**

**P.O. Box 37463  
Boone, IA  
50037-0463**

**Credit Card Type (check one)**

- ☐ American Express  
☐ Mastercard  
☐ Visa  
☐ Discover

**Credit Card Number:**

**Credit Card Expiration Date**

(MM/YY): \_\_\_\_\_

CYW VAC915

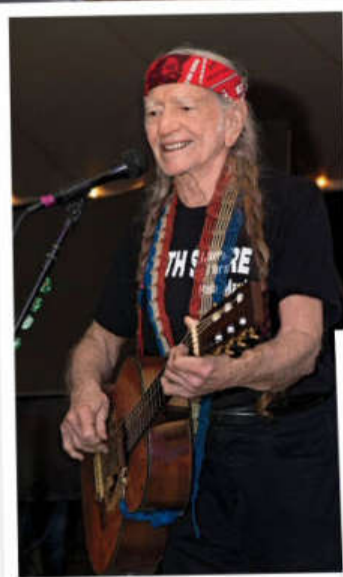
**NASH Country  
Weekly**

**COUNTRY FOR LIFE**



"I've gotten to the point where I can only write on the bus. For me, that's been the most successful way to write songs. When I go home, I'm staying in the house and I'm not going anywhere else. We don't get to see our families very much, so I make the most of that time at home. It seems like I just can't write in a room anymore."

## THOMAS RHETT



## FULL CIRCLE

On **WILLIE NELSON**'s 2013 album *To All the Girls*, he performed a duet with **LORETTA LYNN** on "Somewhere Between," a song **MERLE HAGGARD** co-penned for his 1967 album, *Branded Man*.



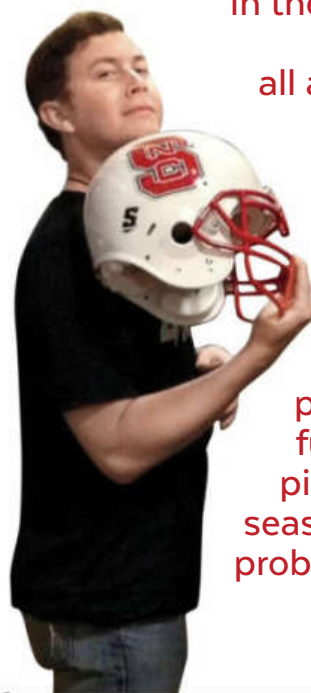
## REVEREND RAN

Actor **GERALD McRANEY** is slated to star as **REV. JAKE OWENS** in the made-for-television movie *Dolly Parton's Coat of Many Colors*. You may recognize Gerald, who's married to actress Delta Burke, from past television shows *Simon & Simon*, *Major Dad* and *Deadwood*.



"In the fall, I enjoy football. I'm all about it, but I also enjoy heading up to the mountains and seeing the leaves change. It's pretty beautiful. If I had to pick a favorite season, it would probably be fall."

## SCOTTY McCREERY



## Daisy If You Do

**JEWEL** isn't the only country singer to be born in Utah. **THE OSBORN SISTERS—KRISTYN, KELSI AND KASSIDY**—of the trio **SHedaISY** also hail from the Beehive State.



## DOLLY PARTON BY THE NUMBERS

**2** OSCAR NOMINATIONS

**5** BILLBOARD NO. 1 ALBUMS

**7** GRAMMYS

**42** STUDIO ALBUMS

**49** YEARS OF MARRIAGE TO CARL DEAN



GET  
INTO  
*Fall*  
Y'ALL



From western and  
work boots to jeans,  
shirts and hats, we'll  
outfit you just right -  
from head to toe. We've  
got all the best brands,  
at the lowest prices,  
guaranteed.

Bring this ad to any one of our 180  
stores for **15% OFF** one item.  
Shopping online? Enter promo code  
PUB-CW91815.



**BOOT BARN®**

America's Largest Western & Work Store

bootbarn.com



\*Offer valid in-store or online. Offer valid on one regularly priced item only. Must surrender coupon at time of purchase. May not be combined with any other offer or discount. Offer valid 9/18/15 through 10/31/15.

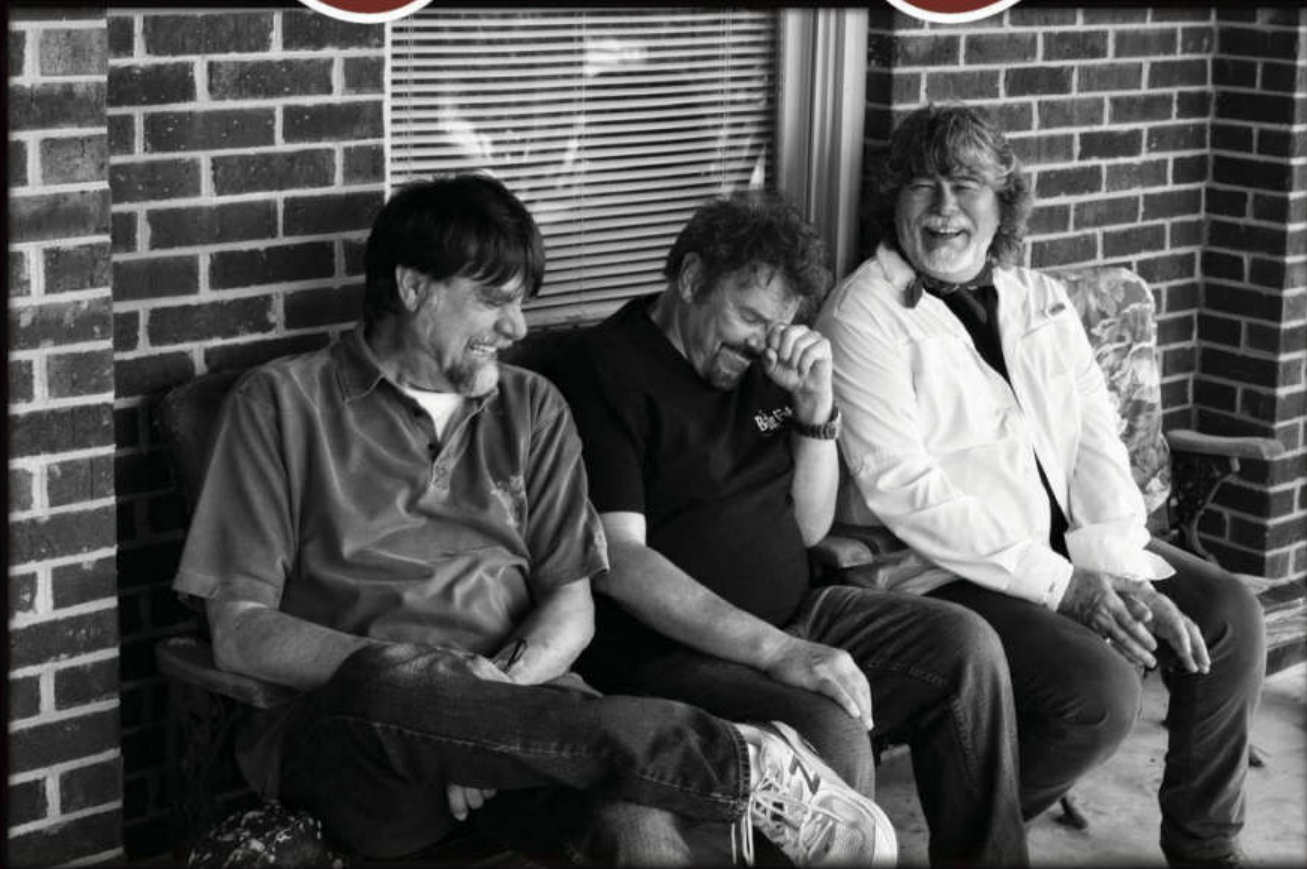
Offer excludes Wrangler® styles 13MWZ Rigid, 47MWZ Rigid, and 936DEN Rigid, Levi's® styles 501STF, all UGG® Australia products, all Brighton® products, and gift cards. Additional exclusions may apply online. To use online, enter coupon code PUB-CW91815.





# ALABAMA

SOUTHERN DRAWL



The First New Studio Album in 14 Years

**SOUTHERN DRAWL**

Available Now

Featuring the Single "Wasn't Through Lovin' You Yet"

Exclusive Version with 2 Bonus Tracks Available At:



**BMG**

[www.thealabamaband.com](http://www.thealabamaband.com)

"Rocker Barrel Old Country Store" name and logo are registered trademarks of BMG Properties, Inc.